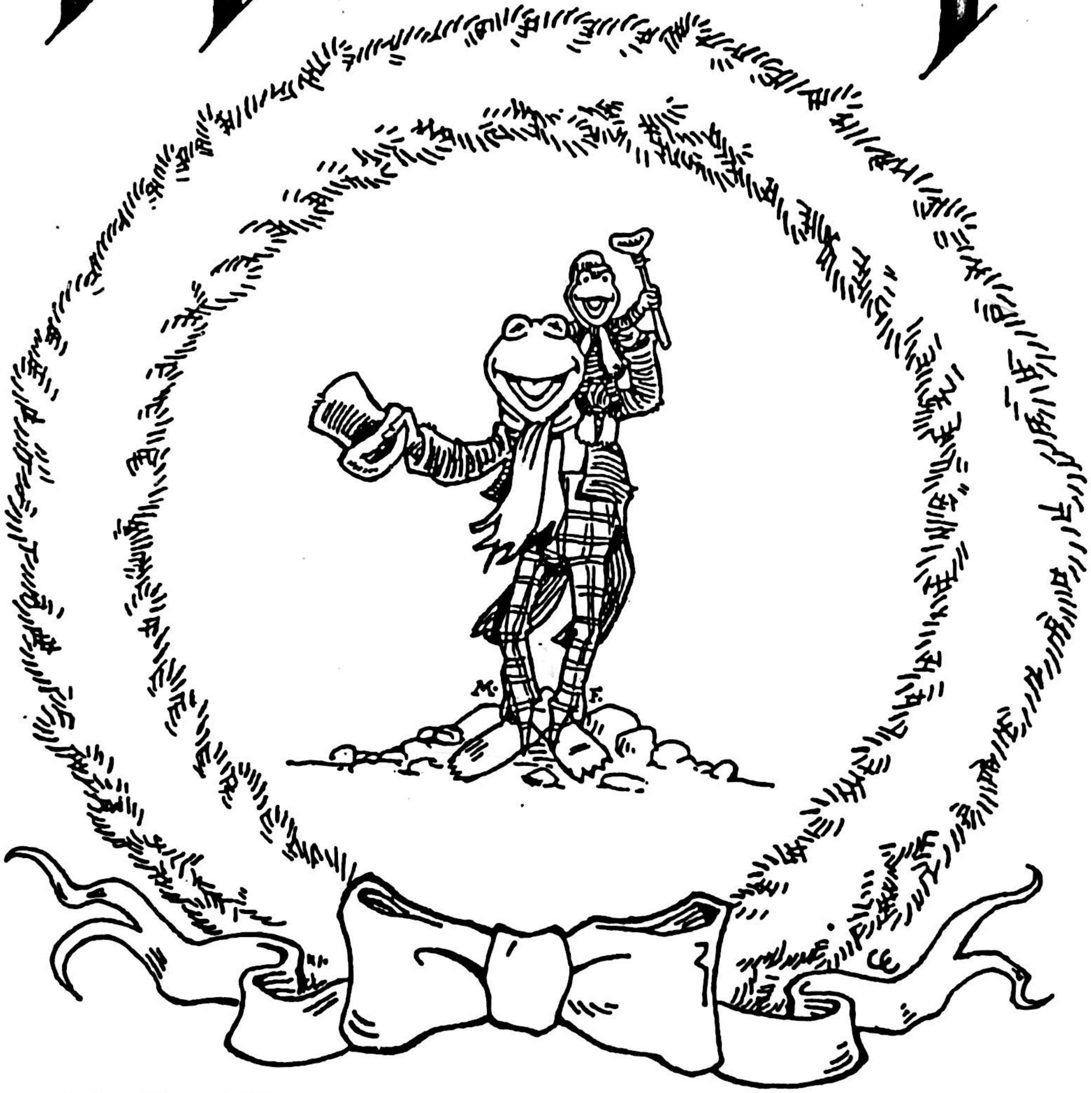
The MUPPET



CHRISTMAS CAROL

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Final, Absolutely Complete
Subject -to -Change Version

Screenplay by Jerry Juhl

Songs by Paul Williams

Version 5.0

May 7, 1992

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1. EXT. LONDON STREET MARKET — DAY 1.

A winter's afternoon in a street of commerce in London. The year is 1840.

SHAFTS OF SUNLIGHT cut through the overcast to bathe the street in shifting bands of gold.

CAMERA MOVES down the street, through rows of booths, barrows, and carts to reveal a rich counterpoint of BUSINESSMEN, MESSENGERS, APPRENTICES, AND PEDDLERS .

Most of these characters are PUPPETS, but there is also a sprinkling of HUMAN EXTRAS.

It is Christmas Eve, with wreaths visible on many doorways. The people on the street are in good spirits, calling cheerful greetings to one another.

THIS IS THE OPENING TITLE SEQUENCE OF THE FILM

2. EXT. STREET CORNER — DAY 2.

CAMERA discovers GONZO THE GREAT and RIZZO RAT dressed as peddlers. They stand behind a rude table on which a pile of apples are set. RIZZO is eating an apple.

RIZZO
(calling)
Christmas Apples! Get your Christmas Apples... tuppence apiece, while they last!

He takes a tremendous bite out of the apple.

GONZO
They won't last long the way you're eating them.

RIZZO
I'm creating scarcity. Drives the price up.

GONZO
(to camera)
Welcome to ***A Christmas Carol.*** I am here to tell the story.

RIZZO
And I am here for the food.

He tosses an apple core and picks up another apple.

GONZO
(ignoring him -
very serious)
My name is Charles Dickens.

RIZZO
And my name is Rizzo the Rat...
Wait a second! You're not Charles
Dickens!

GONZO
(sotto voce)
I am too.

RIZZO
Charles Dickens was a 19th century
novelist! A genius!

GONZO
(modestly)
You are too kind.

RIZZO
(suspicious)
Why should I believe you?

GONZO
I know the story of ***A Christmas
Carol*** like the back of my hand!

RIZZO
Prove it.

GONZO
Okay, there's a mole next to the
thumb, and a scar on my wrist from
when I fell off my bicycle...

RIZZO
Don't tell us your hand! Tell us the
story!

GONZO
Oh. "The Marleys were dead: to
begin with."

RIZZO
Pardon?

GONZO
That's how the story begins. "The
Marleys were dead: to begin with. As
dead as a doornail."

RIZZO
Good beginning! Spooky and kind of creepy.

GONZO
Thank you, Rizzo.

RIZZO
You're welcome, Mr. Dickens.

RIZZO starts in on another apple.

GONZO
In life, the Marleys had been business partners with a shrewd money-lender whose name was Ebenezer Scrooge. You will meet him as he comes round that corner.

RIZZO
Where?

GONZO
There

RIZZO
When?

GONZO
Now.

RIZZO
Argh!!

RIZZO is startled by SCROOGE'S sudden appearance.

EBENEZER SCROOGE is seen in SILHOUETTE, HIS FACE NOT VISIBLE. He is played by a HUMAN ACTOR.

GONZO
(continued)
There he is now, Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge.

A cloud passes in front of the sun. Suddenly the day seems gray and cold.

RIZZO
Say, is it getting colder around here?

3. EXT. LONDON STREETS — DAY 3.

SCROOGE, his clothes flapping about him like the wings of some demented black bird, swoops toward camera. GONZO grabs RIZZO by the tail, and they scurry after SCROOGE.

NOTE: WE NEVER SEE SCROOGE'S FACE in the song which follows. He is shot from behind, or from low angles or with foreground blocking material, so he is never fully visible.

As SCROOGE passes people on the street, they turn to watch him go and sing about him. SCROOGE PAYS NO NOTICE.

1ST STREET PERSON
WHEN A COLD WIND BLOWS IT CHILLS YOU
CHILLS YOU TO THE BONE.

2ND STREET PERSON
BUT THERE'S NOTHING IN NATURE
THAT FREEZES YOUR HEART
LIKE YEARS OF BEING ALONE

3RD STREET PERSON
IT PAINTS YOU WITH INDIFFERENCE
LIKE A LADY PAINTS WITH ROUGE

4TH STREET PERSON
AND THE WORST OF THE WORST

5TH STREET PERSON
THE MOST HATED AND CURSED

4TH STREET PERSON
IS THE ONE THAT WE CALL SCROOGE

A TURTLE in the gutter looks up as SCROOGE passes.

TURTLE
UNKIND AS ANY

5TH STREET PERSON
AND THE WRATH OF MANY

TURTLE
THIS IS EBENEZER SCROOGE!

SCROOGE steps in a puddle as he passes, splashing the TURTLE.

STREET PEOPLE

THERE GOES MR. HUMBUG
THERE GOES MR. GRIM
IF THEY GAVE A PRIZE FOR BEING MEAN
THE WINNER WOULD BE HIM

SHEEP IN A PEN

OLD SCROOGE HE LOVES HIS MONEY
CAUSE HE THINKS IT GIVES HIM POWER

A TABLE OF VEGETABLES

IF HE BECAME A FLAVOR
YOU CAN BET HE WOULD BE SOUR

BEGGAR

Even the veggies don't trust 'im!

We see an archway on which sit THREE PIGEONS, watching.

PIGEONS

THERE GOES MR. SKINFLINT
THERE GOES MR. GREED

ALLEY CATS

THE UNDISPUTED MASTER OF THE UNDERHANDED DEED

POOR FAMILY

HE CHARGES FOLKS A FORTUNE FOR HIS
DARK AND DRAFTY HOUSES
US POOR FOLK LIVE IN MISERY

CUT TO: A FAMILY OF MICE living in a CRATE IN THE GUTTER

MOUSE

IT'S EVEN WORSE FOR MOUSES.

BABY mouse holds up a bowl to the FATHER MOUSE

BABY MOUSE

Please, sir, I want some cheese.

SCROOGE is observed by a nearby group of CHURCH LADIES who are collecting for the poor.

CHURCH LADIES

HE MUST BE SO LONELY
HE MUST BE SO SAD
HE GOES TO EXTREMES TO CONVINCE US HE'S BAD
HE'S REALLY A VICTIM OF FEAR AND OF PRIDE...
LOOK CLOSE AND THERE MUST BE A SWEET MAN INSIDE...

VENDOR

Naw!

The CHURCH LADIES agree. SCROOGE MOVES ON, passing HOMELESS PEOPLE, warming themselves by a tiny fire. A PAIR OF HORSES move by, pulling a CART.

STREET PERSONS

THERE GOES MR. OUTRAGE
THERE GOES MR. SNEER
HE HAS NO TIME FOR FRIENDS OR FUN
HIS ANGER MAKES THAT CLEAR

HORSES

DON'T ASK HIM FOR A FAVOR CAUSE
HIS NASTINESS INCREASES
NO CRUST OF BREAD FOR THOSE IN NEED

CUT TO: MICE on the CRATE

MOUSE

NO CHEESES FOR US MEESES!

SCROOGE turns a corner. SEVERAL PIG BUSINESSMEN watch him go by. GONZO and RIZZO stand watching.

GONZO

Scrooge liked the cold. He was hard and sharp as a flint; secret and self-contained, as solitary as an oyster.

EVERYONE ON STREET

THERE GOES MR. HEARTLESS
THERE GOES MR. CRUEL
HE NEVER GIVES, HE ONLY TAKES
HE LETS HIS HUNGER RULE
IF BEING MEAN'S A WAY OF LIFE
YOU PRACTICE AND REHEARSE
THEN ALL THAT WORK IS PAYING OFF
CAUSE SCROOGE IS GETTING WORSE

4. EXT. SCROOGE'S COUNTING HOUSE — DAY 4.

SCROOGE strides up to the front door of his office and opens it.

EVERYONE ON STREET
YES, EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY
SCROOGE IS GETTING WORSE!

Slowly SCROOGE turns, revealing himself to camera for the first time. He is a sallow, pinched man dressed entirely in black.

SCROOGE
(grumbling)
Humbug.

Completely intimidated, the TOWNS PEOPLE slink off, vanishing instantly.

SCROOGE slams the door loudly, just as GONZO and RIZZO bound up onto the steps.

The brass plaque by the door reads, "Scrooge and Marley". The door itself has a window in to the office, which is so be-grimed by soot one can hardly see inside.

RIZZO
What an unpleasant fella!

GONZO
(looking at
window)
He was a tight-fisted hand at the
grindstone, Scroo...boy, this is really
a dirty city.

GONZO picks up RIZZO and, using him like a blackboard eraser, cleans the window.

RIZZO
Thank you for making me a part of
this.

GONZO
He was a tight-fisted hand at the
grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing,
wrenching, grasping, clutching
covetous old sinner!

CAMERA moves in on the window, where an image of SCROOGE can now be seen.

5. INT. SCROOGE'S COUNTING HOUSE — DAY 5.

SCROOGE takes off his coat and scarf, hanging them on a coat rack.

SCROOGE
Bob! Bob Cratchit! Come in here at
once!

BOB CRATCHIT enters. He is played by KERMIT THE FROG.

CRATCHIT
Yes, Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE takes a huge stack of paperwork off a desk.

SCROOGE
Here are the eviction notices for tomorrow.

CRATCHIT
Tomorrow's Christmas, sir.

SCROOGE
Very well, you may gift wrap them!

SCROOGE hands BOB CRATCHIT the papers. CRATCHIT staggers under the weight.

CRATCHIT
There are certainly a lot today.

SCROOGE
(rubbing his hands)
Christmas is a busy time for us, Mr. Cratchit. People preparing feasts. Giving parties. Spending the mortgage money on frivolities. One might say that December is Foreclosure Season. Harvest time for the moneylenders!

CRATCHIT starts to leave, then turn, remembering something.

CRATCHIT
Err, if you please Mr. Scrooge, it's gotten colder, and the bookkeeping staff would like to have an extra shovelful of coal to put on the fire.

CRATCHIT is now surrounded by a band of Muppet rats. They all wear little green visors and arm bands. They make a great show of chattering teeth, jumping up and down, slapping themselves, trying to get warm.

RAT #1
We can't do the bookkeeping!

RAT #2
Our pens have turned to inksicles!

RAT #3
All of our assets are frozen!

SCROOGE glares.

SCROOGE
And how would the bookkeepers like
to be suddenly ***unemployed?***

CUT TO THE RATS.

Suddenly they are all wearing Victorian bathing suits. One has a guitar.

RAT #1
Heat wave!

RAT #4
Oh England ! Tropical Paradise!

RAT #3
(singing)
THIS IS MY ISLAND IN THE
SUN... ETC.

The RATS dance off into their office, mopping their brows in a great show of warmth.

CRATCHIT
I believe you've convinced them
once again, Mr. Scrooge.

CRATCHIT leaves.

SCROOGE sits down at his desk, looking quite satisfied with himself.

6. EXT. SCROOGE'S COUNTING HOUSE — DAY 6.

GONZO and RIZZO are peering in the window. GONZO turns to address the audience.

GONZO
At that moment, who should appear
at the door but Scrooge's nephew
Fred, his only living relative!

RIZZO looks off to the ***LEFT***.

RIZZO
Nephew Fred? I don't see him.

GONZO
Trust me.

At once FRED bounds up the steps on the ***RIGHT*** just behind RIZZO.

Startled, RIZZO falls off the step with a scream and lands HEAD FIRST in the SNOW.

RIZZO
You're very good at that, Mr. Dickens.

FRED is a HUMAN ACTOR, a man in his twenties. He carries a Christmas wreath. He knocks on the door and opens it.

FRED
(calling)
Hello Uncle!

FRED
A Merry Christmas, Uncle Scrooge! God save you!

FRED enters the building.

RIZZO
Quick! It'll be warmer in there!

GONZO and RIZZO rush into the office, just as FRED closes the door.

7.INT. SCROOGE'S COUNTING HOUSE — DAY 7.

SCROOGE
Merry Christmas? Bah! Humbug!

FRED
Christmas a humbug, uncle? You don't mean that, I'm sure!

SCROOGE
I do!

RIZZO
Actually, I think it's *colder* in here.

GONZO and RIZZO start to shovel coal out of the scuttle onto the fire.

SCROOGE
Merry Christmas you say? What right have you to be merry? You're poor enough!

FRED
What right have you to be dismal? You're rich enough.

RIZZO
He's got him there. The old boy's speechless.

SCROOGE
If I could work my will, every idiot who goes about with "Merry Christmas" on his lips should be cooked with his own turkey and buried with a stake of holly through his heart!

RIZZO
Well, not quite speechless.

FRED
Uncle!

SCROOGE
Nephew! Keep Christmas in your own way, and let me keep it in mine!

FRED
But you don't keep it!

SCROOGE
Let me leave it alone, then! Much good it may do you! Much good it has ever done you!

GONZO and RIZZO are blowing mightily on the fire, trying to get it started.

FRED
Despite what you say, I believe that each year Christmas does mankind a world of good. And I say God Bless It!

CUT TO ANOTHER ANGLE

To see BOB CRATCHIT and the RAT BOOKKEEPERS all peeking around the corner of the door to the other office. They are applauding, and cheering, whistling enthusiastically.

SCROOGE
(to the bookkeepers)
And how exactly do they celebrate Christmas on the unemployment line?

CRATCHIT and the rats withdraw hastily.

SCROOGE
(continued)
As for you, nephew, you're quite a powerful speaker. It's a wonder you don't run for public office!

GONZO is using RIZZO as a bellows, holding him by the legs and pumping. With each stroke RIZZO blows mightily on the embers.

GONZO
(to camera)
Now in these times it was customary on Christmas Eve for well-meaning gentlemen to call upon businesses collecting donations for the poor and the homeless.

The door to the street opens a crack and BUNSEN HONEYDEW peers in.

HONEYDEW
Mr. Scrooge, I presume?

BEAKER appears in the doorway next to BUNSEN.

BEAKER
MeMee Meep, Mee Meemeemee?

SCROOGE
Who are you?

HONEYDEW
We're from the Order of Victoria Charitable Foundation. We'd like to speak to you about a donation.

FRED sees a great opportunity to have some fun.

FRED
Welcome! This jolly old gentlemen here is Mr. Scrooge! He'd love to speak with you!

SCROOGE
(furious)
My dear nephew...

HONEYDEW launches into his pitch.

HONEYDEW
At this festive season of the year, Mr. Scrooge, many of us feel that we must take care of our poor and the homeless.

BEAKER
Mee, mee, meep meep!

SCROOGE
(incredulous)
Are there no prisons? No poorhouses?

HONEYDEW
(flustered)
Oh plenty of those, Sir.

SCROOGE
Oh, excellent! For a moment I was worried.

HONEYDEW
Some of us are endeavoring to raise a fund for the poor and homeless . What shall I put you down for?

SCROOGE
Nothing!

HONEYDEW
You wish to be anonymous?

SCROOGE
I wish to be left alone! I don't make merry myself at Christmas...

FRED
That is certainly true!

SCROOGE
...and I can't afford to make idle people merry.

FRED
That is certainly ***not*** true!

SCROOGE
Nephew, don't you have other things to do this afternoon?

FRED
Sadly, I do, Uncle Scrooge. So I will make my donation and leave you to make yours.

He quietly extracts some coins from his pocket and hands them to BEAKER.

BUNSEN AND BEAKER
Oh, thank you so very much. / Me, meemeep me mee me mee!

FRED
Uncle! Come and have Christmas dinner with Clara and me tomorrow!

SCROOGE
Why did you get married?

FRED
What? Because I fell in love!

SCROOGE
Because you fell in love! (he chuckles coldly) The only thing in the world sillier than a merry Christmas!

FRED
It's no use, Uncle. I will keep my Christmas humor to the last! A Merry Christmas to you, and a Happy New Year!

FRED hangs the wreath he is holding around SCROOGE's neck, bows and exits.

SCROOGE
Humbug!

SCROOGE hurls the wreath at the closed door.

HONEYDEW
Err, now then, Mr. Scrooge. About the donation… .

SCROOGE
See here: I know how to treat the poor! My taxes go to pay for the prisons and the poorhouses. The homeless must go there.

HONEYDEW
But...but some would rather die!

SCROOGE
If they would rather die, they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population!

HONEYDEW
(sotto voce)
All right, Beakie, it's show time!

BEAKER suddenly produces an ACCORDION (or concertina) on which he plays a florid intro.

HONEYDEW
ANYBODY CAN CHANGE SCROOGE AND SO CAN YOU
WHEN YOU'RE READY TO START
THERE'S ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR LOVE
LOVE LOVE LOVE
ANYBODY CAN GROW SCROOGE
AND YOU CAN TOO
WHEN YOU'RE DOIN' YOUR PART
THERE'S ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR LOVE

SCROOGE turns and walks away from them in disgust. They follow.

HONEYDEW
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE
GIVE FREELY
AND YOU WILL FIND
THAT WHAT YOU GET IN TRADE MY FRIEND IS
PEACE OF MIND
IF YOU'RE READY TO WALK IN THE SUNSHINE
THEN OPEN UP YOUR HEART
WELL OPEN UP YOUR POCKETBOOK
IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO START

BEAKER
ME ME MEEP ME ME MEEP MEEP

SCROOGE turns on BEAKER, annoyed at his meeping. BEAKER, intimidated, steps back — inadvertently putting a foot in the empty coal scuttle. He is, of course, stuck like that, and cannot remove it because his hands are busy playing the accordion.

HONEYDEW
WHAT YOU'RE MISSIN' IS FUN SCROOGE
IT'S SAD BUT TRUE
WALK AWAY FROM THIS GLOOM
THERE'S ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR LOVE
LOVE LOVE LOVE

BEAKER
MEEP MEEP MEEP ME ME MEEP
ME ME
MEEP MEEP MEEP

BEAKER does a little dance step during the foregoing, with each alternate step CLANKING in the bucket.

HONEYDEW
WHEN YOU'RE DOIN' YOUR BEST
YOU'RE SUDDENLY BLESSED WITH LOVE

SCROOGE
Humbug!

SCROOGE turns away in disgust. BEAKER kicks hard with his foot, trying to dislodge the BUCKET. THE BUCKET flies off the foot, somersaults in the air, and lands on BEAKER'S HEAD.

HONEYDEW
IF YOU WANNA LIVE
GIVE FREELY AND YOU WILL FIND
THAT WHAT YOU GET IN TRADE MY FRIEND IS
PEACE OF MIND
IF YOU'RE READY TO WALK IN THE SUNSHINE
THEN OPEN UP YOUR HEART
AND OPEN UP YOUR POCKETBOOK
IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO START

BEAKER
(echoed from
inside the
bucket)
ME ME MEEP ME ME MEEP MEEP

HONEYDEW (AND BEAKER(?))
ANYBODY CAN CHANGE SCROOGE AND SO CAN YOU
WHEN YOU'RE READY TO START
THERE'S ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR LOVE
LOVE LOVE
WHEN YOU'RE READY TO START
THERE'S ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR LOVE!

SCROOGE moves to the door.

SCROOGE
Delightful! (pointing) That is a door.
You may use it!

HONEYDEW
(quietly
outraged)
Come, Beaker. I think we've taken
quite enough of Mr. Scrooge's time!

HONEYDEW goes to the door with an air of injured dignity. BEAKER stumbles after, walking into walls.

SCROOGE
(glaring at
Beaker)
As you exit please leave behind ***all***
stolen property!

With a loud POP, SCROOGE yanks the bucket off BEAKER'S HEAD. BEAKER, terrified, scrambles toward the door.

BUNSEN opens the door. Outside stands BEAN BUNNY, caroling. BUNSEN and BEAKER exit.

BEAN
THOUGH THE SNOW LAY ROUND ABOUT
DEEP AND CRISP AND EVEN!
(to Scrooge,
brightly)
A penny for the song, Guv'ner?

SCROOGE slams the door in BEAN'S face.

8. EXT. THE COUNTING HOUSE — DUSK 8.

BEAN, who is shabbily dressed, turns away from the door. He is very disappointed and his ears droop miserably. He shuffles off down the pavement.

9. INT. COUNTING HOUSE — DUSK 9.

CRATCHIT
Excuse me, Mr. Scrooge, but it
appears to be closing time.

SCROOGE
Oh, very well. I'll see you at eight
tomorrow morning.

The RAT BOOKKEEPERS gather around behind CRATCHIT, hoping that he will plead their case.

CRATCHIT
Errr... Tomorrow's Christmas...

The RAT BOOKKEEPERS nod vigorously in unison.

BOOKKEEPERS
Oh yeah...yup, yup...that's
true...(etc.)

SCROOGE
Eight *thirty* then.

CRATCHIT
Please, Sir, half an hour off is hardly
customary for Christmas Day.

THE RAT BOOKKEEPERS shake their heads vigorously.

BOOKKEEPERS
Nope...certainly not...no, no... (etc.)

SCROOGE
How much time off *is* customary,
Mr. Cratchit?

CRATCHIT
Errr, the whole day.

RAT BOOKKEEPERS NOD VIGOROUSLY.

BOOKKEEPERS
Yup, yup...whole day...customary...oh sure... (etc.)

SCROOGE
The *whole* day???

Afraid of getting fired, THE RAT BOOKKEEPERS change sides.

BOOKKEEPERS
No, no...certainly not! That was the frog's idea... (etc.)

CRATCHIT
If you please, Mr. Scrooge, why open the office tomorrow? Other businesses will be closed. You won't have anyone to do business *with*.. It will be a waste of a lot of expensive coal for the fire!

BOOKKEEPERS
Oh, well... gotta point there!...good thinking...irrefutable logic.

SCROOGE
Very well, have the day off then.

BOOKKEEPER
Awright!...way to go, boss!...my kind of money lender!

SCROOGE
Oh, stop that!

SCROOGE puts on his great-coat and opens the door.

10. EXT. SCROOGE'S COUNTING HOUSE — DUSK 10.

Night is settling in.

SCROOGE steps out the door. GONZO and RIZZO sneak out at the same time.

SCROOGE turns back to his employees.

SCROOGE
Be here all the earlier the next morning!

BOOKKEEPERS
Oh sure!...You bet...Here with the
dawn!...up with the birdies! (etc.)

SCROOGE exits. GONZO, who's been watching this, turns to CAMERA.

GONZO
With their employer gone at last,
Cratchit and the bookkeepers
immediately began that most
pleasant of activities, the *Celebration*
of Christmas!

11. INT. SCROOGE'S OFFICE — NIGHT 11.

THE BOOKKEEPER RATS quickly begin to put away the ledger books and clean up the office

BOB CRATCHIT
THERE'S MAGIC IN THE AIR THIS EVENING
MAGIC IN THE AIR
THE WORLD IS AT HER BEST YOU KNOW
WHEN PEOPLE LOVE AND CARE
THE PROMISE OF EXCITEMENT
IS ONE THE NIGHT WILL KEEP
AFTER ALL,
THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE SLEEP TILL CHRISTMAS

As KERMIT sings, the RATS walk around on stilt brooms, sweeping the floor and catapult themselves into the air to grab window shades and drag them down.. Then, donning poor bits of jackets and mittens (no great-coats for this lot!) they exit.

12. EXT. SCROOGE'S COUNTING HOUSE — NIGHT 12

CRATCHIT coming out the door last to lock it carefully with the key.

BOB CRATCHIT
THE WORLD HAS GOT A SMILE TODAY
THE WORLD HAS GOT A GLOW
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS STRANGERS
WHEN THE STRANGER SAYS HELLO
AND EVERYONE IS FAMILY
WE'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN
AFTER ALL,
THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE SLEEP TILL CHRISTMAS

13. EXT. STREET — NIGHT 13.

BOB CRATCHIT and the RATS sing their way down the street. They find a gang of five goofy penguins, sliding on frozen puddles.

CRATCHIT AND RATS
TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY AND JOYOUS
WITH A BURST OF PLEASURE WE FEEL IT ARRIVE
IT'S THE SEASON WHEN THE SAINTS CAN EMPLOY US
TO SPREAD THE NEWS ABOUT PEACE
AND TO KEEP LOVE ALIVE

GONZO and RIZZO and the BOOKKEEPERS join in the sliding. When *RIZZO* tries to skate on the icy patch, he wipes out, sliding into a rain barrel.

During the following REVELERS START TO LEAVE, waving GOOD-BYES, hugging one another as they go.

BOB CRATCHIT
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WIND TODAY
THAT'S GOOD FOR EVERYONE
YES, FAITH IS IN OUR HEARTS TODAY
WE'RE SHININ' LIKE THE SUN

BOB CRATCHIT is now alone on the street.

BOB CRATCHIT
EVERYONE CAN FEEL IT, THE FEELINGS RUNNIN' DEEP
AFTER ALL
THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE SLEEP TILL CHRISTMAS
AFTER ALL
THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE SLEEP TILL CHRISTMAS DAY!

CRATCHIT turns the corner at the end of the street and vanishes into the night.

The street, which had been filled with such gaiety a moment before, seems very cold, dark, and forlorn. An Arctic wind howls, blowing bits of debris along the pavement.

CUT TO BEAN BUNNY sitting in a doorway, huddled under a blanket. His teeth are chattering.

DISSOLVE TO:

14. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE — NIGHT 14.

It's a dark, gloomy, brick-pile on a quiet, rundown street.

A HANSOM CAB pulls up nearby. It is driven by GONZO. RIZZO, at his side, is eating a loaf of bread.

RIZZO
Have some bread?

GONZO
Not while I'm working.

RIZZO
Suit yourself.

GONZO
(to camera)
Scrooge lived in chambers which had once belonged to Jacob Marley. It was a dismal heap of brick on a dark street.

SCROOGE appears, moving slowly in the dark, shuffling down the pavement past the hansom cab.

GONZO
(quietly, confidentially)
Now once again I ask you to remember that the Marleys were dead and decaying in their graves. That one thing you must understand or nothing that follows will seem wondrous...

RIZZO
Could you speak up?

GONZO
It's for dramatic emphasis!

SCROOGE climbs the steps to his front door and stops there to search for his key.

CUT TO: Wind, whipping snow through the leafless branches of a tree in the sidewalk.

CUT TO: The moon, clouds scudding across.

CUT TO: The DOOR KNOCKER momentarily reflecting the luminescence of the moon.

CUT TO: SCROOGE fumbling with his latch key.

CUT TO: THE DOOR KNOCKER, as it turns into a FACE!

CUT TO: ECU SCROOGE, who starts back in fright!

SCROOGE
Jacob Marley!

CUT TO: the DOOR KNOCKER. The face, which actually looks more silly than terrifying, opens its mouth and now the whole knocker transforms to become nothing more than a huge mouth.

DOOR KNOCKER
Scroooooge!

CUT TO: ECU SCROOGE.

Who screams!

CUT TO: THE STREET. The hansom cab's HORSE rears up, whinnying in terror, AND GALLOPS OFF. This throws GONZO and RIZZO off the seat and onto the pavement.

CUT TO: SCROOGE, clutching the door rail, backing down the steps, terror-stricken.

The DOOR KNOCKER shimmers and returns to normal.

SCROOGE clutches at his heart.

CUT TO: RIZZO kneeling on the pavement next to GONZO, who appears to be unconscious.

RIZZO
(frantic)
You okay? Hello? Are you all right? Gonzo, speak to me. I mean, Mr. Dickens... Charley... are you hurt?

GONZO sits up and looks to camera.

GONZO
To say that Scrooge was not startled would be untrue. Still, the moment had passed, and the world was as it should be.

RIZZO
(to camera)
He's not hurt. Didn't even break his concentration.

CUT TO: SCROOGE.

He gingerly steps back to the door and examines the brass knocker, dull and ordinary in the dim light.

SCROOGE
Humbug.

Scrooge turns the key in the door and enters. Just inside the door is a small table. Scrooge stops there to light a candle.

GONZO scurries up the steps to the front door, calling over his shoulder.

GONZO
(whispered call)
Hey, Rizzo! Come on. We'll follow him in!

CUT TO RIZZO, who searches the street.

RIZZO
In a minute! I had a little bag of chocolate fudge.

GONZO
Just get over here!

Rizzo gives up the search and races toward the door. He bounds up the steps, joining Gonzo, and the two of them start to enter the house just as Scrooge, on the inside, his candle lit, slams the door in their faces.

The SOUND of the door slam echoes through the house like a drum.

GONZO turns to camera, his nose squished.

GONZO
(nasal)
Scrooge made his way up the staircase, caring not a button for the darkness. Darkness was cheap, and Scrooge liked it.

15. INT. SCROOGE'S STAIRWAY — NIGHT. 15.

From above, looking down, we watch SCROOGE climb the dark stairs to the second floor. The ancient, creaking staircase is lit only by the tiny candle in SCROOGE's hand, and each step he takes echoes eerily through the house.

16. INT. SCROOGE'S SITTING ROOM — NIGHT. 16.

A cold dark room. The top of the stairs can be seen in one corner. A door leads to the bed chamber.

Scrooge climbs the stairs. He starts to hesitantly search the room, feeling slightly foolish for doing so.

GONZO
(voice over)
But the incident at the door had made Scrooge wary. Before he shut himself in for the night he searched his rooms.

RIZZO
(voice over)
Okay, that does it!

GONZO
(voice over)
Pardon?

17. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE — NIGHT 17.

GONZO and RIZZO stand on the pavement in front of the house.

RIZZO
How do you know what Scrooge is doing? We're down here and he's up there.

RIZZO points to the darkened second-story windows.

GONZO
I keep telling you! Storytellers are omniscient! (imperiously) I know everything!

RIZZO
Hoity-toity. Mr. God-like smarty-pants! Let me touch the hem of your rag!

GONZO
(ignoring Rizzo)
To conduct a proper search, Scrooge was forced to light the lamps.

GONZO turns to look up at the second-floor windows. The lights suddenly blaze within them.

RIZZO
(to camera)
How does he *do* that?

18. INT. SCROOGE'S SITTING ROOM — NIGHT 18.

Scrooge circles the room warily.

GONZO
(voice over)
There was nobody under the table.
Nobody under the bed.

SCROOGE
Nobody in the closet...

SCROOGE picks up a poker and rattles it about up the chimney.

SCROOGE
Nothing up the chimney.

SCROOGE exits into the bed chamber.

19. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — NIGHT 19.

A four-poster bed with curtains dominates the room.

Some pegs on the wall hold several garments, including a dressing-gown.

Scrooge backs into the room, turns, and is startled by the dressing-gown.

The SHAPE OF A FRIGHTENING CREATURE can be discerned beneath its folds!

Scrooge reaches out a hand and pats it. The gown relaxes into an ordinary garment.

GONZO
(voice over)
Nobody in his dressing-gown, which
was hanging up in a suspicious
attitude.

SCROOGE is relieved! Everything is normal! He removes his cravat. He hums a fragment of "Room In Your Heart For Love".

SCROOGE
(under his breath)
ANYBODY CAN CHANGE
SCROOGE AND SO CAN YOU.
And so I shall. I'll change into my
dressing gown!

SCROOGE CHUCKLES as he puts on his dressing gown. HE EXITS TO THE SITTING ROOM.

20. INT. SCROOGE'S SITTING ROOM — NIGHT 20.

A FEW MINUTES LATER. SCROOGE, now dressed in nightshirt and dressing gown, sits before a cheerful fire, enjoying a rind of cheese and a crust of bread, his customary frugal supper. He is relaxed.

High up on a shadowy wall is hung a small bell, the kind used to summon servants. Very gently at first, the bell begins to swing.

SCROOGE gets to his feet and watches in terrified fascination. The bell begins to sound, a slight, soprano ringing. And that sound is answered by another bell from somewhere deep within the house, and then others, everywhere, A CACOPHONY OF BELLS that seems to fill the room.

SCROOGE grabs the poker and swings it pointlessly at the air.

THE BELLS STOP. Silence.

Shaken, SCROOGE studies the bell high up on the wall.

Behind him A REDDISH GLOW comes from the stairway, and a sulfurous mist rises from the floor below.

Low, murmuring clanking noises are heard.

The smoke rises, billowing up out of the staircase, still unseen by SCROOGE.

Suddenly, out of the smoke emerge STATLER AND WALDORF, the two old men in the box from The Muppet Show

They are dressed in the Victorian business suits. From their hands, feet, and waists hang many chains that inter-link, tying the two of them together, and trailing backward down the stairs. They are hung with cash boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers and heavy purses, wrought in steel.

ROBERT MARLEY
It's Ebenezer Scrooge!

SCROOGE whirls in horror.

JACOB MARLEY
Looking older and more wicked than ever!

ROBERT MARLEY
I knew he wouldn't disappoint us!

SCROOGE puts an arm chair between himself and the ghastly SPECTERS.

SCROOGE
Who are you?

JACOB MARLEY
You mean who *were* we!

SCROOGE
Yes... if you wish.

JACOB MARLEY
In life we were your partners, Jacob...

ROBERT MARLEY
...and Robert Marley.

SCROOGE
It looks like you. But I don't believe it.

JACOB MARLEY
Why do you doubt your senses?

SCROOGE
Because a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheat. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blob of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of grave about you!

The TWO MARLEYS laugh.

ROBERT MARLEY
More of gravy than of grave!!!

The SPIRITS fall into helpless laughter. SCROOGE laughs too.

JACOB MARLEY
What a terrible pun! Where do you get those jokes?

ROBERT MARLEY
Leave comedy to the bears, Ebenezer!

They laugh, delighted.

JACOB MARLEY
Ah, it's good to be heckling again.

ROBERT MARLEY
It's good to be doing *anything* again!

They laugh!

SCROOGE
Why do you come to me?

MUSIC UNDER

JACOB MARLEY
It is required of every man that the spirit within him should walk abroad among his fellow men.

THE CHAINS attached to the Marleys RISE UP and form a web with them trapped in the middle.

ROBERT MARLEY
And if that spirit goes not forth in life, he is condemned to do so after death.

JACOB MARLEY
To witness what he cannot share, but might have shared, and turned to happiness.

BOTH
WE'RE MARLEY AND MARLEY
AVARICE AND GREED
WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE POOR
AND JUST IGNORED THE NEEDY
WE SPECIALIZED IN CAUSING PAIN
IN SPREADING FEAR AND DOUBT
AND IF YOU COULDN'T MAKE THE RENT
WE SIMPLY THREW YOU OUT!

ROBERT MARLEY
There was the year we evicted the entire orphanage...

JACOB MARLEY
I remember the little tykes all standing in the snow bank!

ROBERT MARLEY
With their little frost-bitten Teddy Bears!

They laugh but then grow serious.

BOTH
WE'RE MARLEY AND MARLEY
OUR HEARTS WERE PAINTED BLACK
WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN OUR EVIL DEEDS
WOULD PUT US BOTH IN SHACKLES
CAPTIVE, BOUND, NOW DOUBLE IRONED
EXHAUSTED BY THE WEIGHT
AS FREEDOM COMES FROM GIVING LOVE
SO PRISON COMES WITH HATE

WE'RE MARLEY AND MARLEY—OHHH OHHH
WE'RE MARLEY AND MARLEY—OHHH OHHH

SCROOGE
But my friends, you were not unfeeling toward you fellow-men.

ROBERT MARLEY
True! There was something about mankind we loved.

JACOB MARLEY
I think it was their money!

They all laugh. Then, suddenly...

BOTH

DOOMED SCROOGE
YOU'RE DOOMED FOR ALL TIME
YOUR FUTURE IS A HORROR STORY
WRITTEN BY YOUR CRIME
YOUR CHAINS ARE FORGED
BY WHAT YOU SAY AND DO

THE LOCKS and CASH BOXES linked to the chains come to life and sing.

CHAINS AND CASH BOXES

SO HAVE YOUR FUN
WHEN LIFE IS DONE
A NIGHTMARE WAITS FOR YOU

SCROOGE

Please...can't we go back to being funny?

During the following the WEB OF CHAINS tangle around SCROOGE and pick him up, drawing him into the web.

MARLEY AND MARLEY

WE'RE MARLEY AND MARLEY—OHHH OHHH
WE'RE MARLEY AND MARLEY—OHHH OHHH
WE'RE MARLEY AND MARLEY
AND NOW IT'S TIME TO PART
TO GO BACK WHERE THEY KEEP OUR KIND
THE WRETCHED AND THE HEARTLESS
THE NEWS WE SHARED
HAS GOT YOU SCARED
WE'RE GLAD THAT WE GOT THROUGH
SO MAKE AMENDS
AND MAKE SOME FRIENDS
THE FUTURE'S UP TO YOU

SCROOGE, terrified, extricates himself from the loops of chains that have encircled him.

SCROOGE

What are these terrible chains.

At this the CHAINS GO TAUT, tugging the MARLEY'S back toward the stairs.

JACOB AND ROBERT moan piteously.

ROBERT MARLEY

The chains!

JACOB MARLEY

We forged these chains in life by our acts of greed.

ROBERT MARLEY
You wear such a chain yourself.

SCROOGE examines his wrists and the floor around him, noticing no chain.

SCROOGE
Humbug. Speak comfort to me, my friends.

JACOB
Comfort?

THE MARLEYS howl in pain and rage! From this point on, the TWO GHOSTS are DRAGGED, inexorably, BACK TOWARDS THE STAIRCASE.

ROBERT MARLEY
You will be haunted by three spirits.

SCROOGE
Haunted? I've already had enough of that.

JACOB MARLEY
Without these visits, you cannot hope to avoid the path we tread.

ROBERT MARLEY
Expect the first ghost tonight, when the bell tolls one.

SCROOGE
Couldn't I take 'em all at once and get it over with?

JACOB MARLEY
When the bell tolls one!

A sickening red vapor rises up, filling the stairwell. THE MARLEYS are dragged back, down the stairs

MARLEY AND MARLEY
WE'RE MARLEY AND MARLEY
OOOH OHHH
MARLEY AND MARLEY
OOOH OHHH
OOOH OHHH
CHANGE!

GONZO
(voice over)
And with that the spirits of Scrooge's partners vanished into the darkness...

21. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE — NIGHT 21.

GONZO and RIZZO are standing looking up at the open windows, in which we can just make out the figure of EBENEZER SCROOGE.

GONZO
(voice over,
cont.)
...and he was once again alone in his room.

RIZZO is transfixed.

RIZZO
This is scary stuff. Should we be worried about the children in the audience?

GONZO
It's all right. This is culture.

RIZZO
Yeah, I guess. (extending a small bag). Have a piece of fudge? The bag was in my pocket all along.

GONZO glares at him.

22. INT. SCROOGE'S SITTING ROOM — NIGHT 22.

The last reddish mist is vanishing from the stairwell.

SCROOGE, looking suddenly old and very tired, picks up a candle and shuffles to his bedchamber.

23. INT. SCROOGE'S BEDCHAMBER — NIGHT 23.

SCROOGE crosses to lie down in his bed, setting the candle on the night stand.

GONZO
(voice over)
Exhausted by this encounter,
Scrooge fell immediately into bed.

He pulls the bed curtains shut. SCROOGE rolls over, eyes already closed.

SCROOGE
Ghosts. Bah! Humbu...

But he is asleep before he can finish.

DISSOLVE TO:

24. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE — GARDEN GATE — NIGHT 24.

GONZO stands beside the CLOSED GATE looking up at it. RIZZO scrabbles up onto its top from the other side. He is frightened.

RIZZO
I really hate this!

GONZO
You wanted to know what was happening. Scrooge's bed chamber is on this side of the house. Now jump.

RIZZO
There are only two things I hate in this life. Heights, and jumping from them.

GONZO
Too late now.

RIZZO
God save my little broken body...

RIZZO covers his eyes and jumps and GONZO breaks his fall. They start to go, then RIZZO turns back.

RIZZO
Wait. I lost my candy again.

RIZZO hops through an open slat in the gate, picks up the bag of fudge which lies on the ground on the far side, and hops back.

DISSOLVE TO:

25. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — NIGHT 25.

A CLOSE UP of SCROOGE, asleep. The bed curtains billow gently. The candle glows dimly from behind the white curtain.

DISSOLVE TO:

26. EXT. TREE IN SCROOGE'S BACK GARDEN — NIGHT 26.

CLOSE UP OF A BARE BRANCH on a tree that grows just outside Scrooge's bed chamber.

A GRAPPLING HOOK sails in from below and hooks onto the branch of the tree. The rope goes taut.

GONZO
(off camera)
Ebenezer Scrooge slipped into the
empty silence of a dreamless sleep.

CAMERA PANS DOWN during the foregoing speech, to discover GONZO climbing the rope with RIZZO on his back.

RIZZO
A guy could break his tail falling
outta this tree.

GONZO
You want to see what's going on,
don't you? Look...there's Scrooge's
window!

SOUND OF TOWN CLOCK starting to chime the hour: the "Big Ben" phrase.

27. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — NIGHT 27.

CLOSE UP of SCROOGE, stirring in his sleep.

SOUND of the clock striking the hour of one.

SCROOGE
(opening one
eye)
One!

28. EXT. TREE IN SCROOGE'S BACK GARDEN — NIGHT 28.

GONZO and RIZZO are now perched on a slender tree branch, just outside of Scrooge's bed chamber.

GONZO
"Expect the first ghost when the bell
tolls one!"

The windows of the bedchamber are suddenly ILLUMINATED FROM WITHIN BY A BLINDING FLOOD OF LIGHT!

29. INT. SCROOGE'S BEDCHAMBER — NIGHT 29.

SCROOGE sits bold upright!

30. EXT. TREE IN SCROOGE'S BACK GARDEN — NIGHT 30.

RIZZO
(startled)
Yikes!!!!

RIZZO falls off the branch. GONZO just manages to catch him by the tip of the tail.

31. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — NIGHT 31.

SCROOGE sits bolt upright in bed.

Beyond the curtains the tiny glow of the candle has blossomed into sun-like brilliance which fills the space with a golden luminescence..

SCROOGE kneels in the bed, and with determination PULLS ASIDE THE CURTAINS.

We can see nothing of the room beyond the curtains, for the screen is transfused with BRILLIANT WHITE LIGHT.

At the center of this brilliance stands a SMALL FIGURE. A YOUNG GIRL ABOUT SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS OLD. She speaks with the voice of a child, but also with great wisdom.

THE APPARITION APPEARS TO BE PAINTED IN AN INTENSE WHITE LIGHT THAT REFRACTS AND RAINBOWS AS SHE MOVES.

SCROOGE
Are you the Spirit whose coming
was foretold to me?

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST
I am.

SCROOGE
You are just a child!

CHRISTMAS PAST
I can remember nearly 1900 years. I
am the Ghost of Christmas Past.

SCROOGE
What business has brought you here?

CHRISTMAS PAST
Your welfare.

SCROOGE
Hmph. A night's unbroken rest
would aid my welfare.

CHRISTMAS PAST
Your reclamation, then. Take heed!

The SPIRIT clasps SCROOGE by the arm.

CHRISTMAS PAST
(continued)
Rise! Walk with me!

The WINDOWS of the room are flung open by an unseen force. SCROOGE clasps the SPIRIT'S ROBE in supplication.

SCROOGE
I beg you Spirit! I am mortal, and liable to fall!

CHRISTMAS PAST
A touch of my hand and you shall fly!

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST and SCROOGE rise into the air, hovering for a moment beside the bed.

THE GHOST and SCROOGE fly out the windows into the night.

32. EXT. TREE — NIGHT 32.

THE GHOST and SCROOGE fly out the window, directly towards GONZO and RIZZO in their tree.

GONZO tosses the GRAPPLING HOOK towards THE SPIRIT

RIZZO
Yikes!!!!

THE GHOST and SCROOGE fly past them. The GRAPPLING HOOK snags in the GHOST'S GOWN.

GONZO and RIZZO are dragged along, screaming.

33. EXT. THE SKY OVER LONDON — NIGHT 33.

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST flies on. At her side is a thoroughly frightened SCROOGE. Below them, dangling at the end of the rope, hang GONZO and RIZZO. RIZZO is not pleased.

Their flight curves, following the bend of the River Thames. Ahead, a glow suffuses the sky near the horizon.

SCROOGE
Spirit, what is that light? It cannot be dawn.

CHRISTMAS PAST
It is the past.

Dropping altitude and speeding up, the GHOST and her passengers streak toward the light which grows on the horizon, growing brighter and brighter, until they VANISH INTO IT'S BLINDING BRILLIANCE...

34. EXT. SKY OVER ENGLAND — DAY 34.

...AND EMERGE ON THE OTHER SIDE, flying through GOLDEN SUNLIGHT over a snowy countryside. They fly over an area of pine forest.

35. EXT. TOPS OF THE TREES — DAY 35.

To see GONZO and RIZZO being dragged along under the GHOST. They reach the woods, and vanish into the foliage.

SOUNDS of GONZO and RIZZO smashing through foliage, plowing into and breaking branches.

GONZO
(off screen)
Wow! Whoopee! Yeah!

RIZZO
(off screen)
Help! Ouch! Oh No! Oh help!

36. EXT SKY OVER ENGLAND — DAY 36.

THE GHOST and SCROOGE swooping low.

CHRISTMAS PAST
Do you know that building ahead?

SCROOGE
Yes, yes! It's my old school! When I was a boy!

THE GHOST makes a graceful turn in the air, stopping forward momentum. The TWO start to sink slowly to earth.

37. EXT. SCHOOL HOUSE — DAY 37.

It is a dull, red-brick mansion with a weathercock surmounting the cupola. A coach sits in the drive in front.

CUT CLOSE: TO SEE GONZO and RIZZO descending slowly on the end of their rope. They have bits of pine boughs caught in their clothes and they are covered with needles. RIZZO spits a twig out of his mouth.

GONZO
And so they arrived in Ebenezer Scrooge's childhood.

RIZZO
That was the worst trip of my life!

GONZO
Well, it's over now.

RIZZO
Yeah, safe at last!

And as he says that, they touch down on the steps of the school, RIGHT IN FRONT OF AN EVIL-LOOKING TOM CAT!

THE CAT hisses and BATS RIZZO out of frame.

GONZO watches the off-screen chase as we hear the cat's snarls and the rat's pleas for help and mercy.

GONZO
(turning to camera)
It was the afternoon of Christmas eve and the boys of the boarding school were going home for the holiday.

As SCROOGE and THE GHOST land near GONZO, the door of the school opens and several boys rush out, carrying luggage. The DRIVER follows, carrying a trunk. They pile onto the carriage.

SCROOGE
Look! My old schoolmates! There's Oliver! And Edmund! Hello Tom!

CHRISTMAS PAST
These are but shadows from your past, Ebenezer. They can neither see nor hear you.

SCROOGE
My old friends!

CHRISTMAS PAST
Come let us go inside.

They turn towards the door.

CUT TO: GONZO. RIZZO rushes in, his clothes ripped, looking much the worse for wear. We hear the CAT approaching.

RIZZO
Help me save me! Help me save me!
Help me save me!

GONZO
(grabbing him)
Follow me.

They turn and enter the door, just as it swings shut. THE TOM CAT arrives an instant too late. He snarls in disappointment.

DISSOLVE TO:

38. INT. SCHOOL ROOM — DAY 38.

A CLOSE UP, PANNING down a shelf of busts: Aristotle, Shakespeare, Dante, Moliere, Gonzo, Rizzo...these last two are not busts at all, but our two guys, sitting on the edge of the shelf, watching the classroom below.

GONZO
And what a flood of memories came
back to him as Scrooge beheld his
old classroom.

ANOTHER ANGLE to see the classroom, shadowy in late afternoon light, the empty rows of desks neatly placed before the blackboard.

Here we discover SCROOGE and the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST.

SCROOGE
I know it all so well, Spirit! The
desks, , the smell of the chalk! I
failed to learn Latin in this room!

CHRISTMAS PAST
And is *he*, too, familiar?

THE SPIRIT turns its head, illuminating a darkened corner, revealing a SMALL BOY of seven, seated on a bench, alone and forlorn, reading. A Christmas wreath hangs on the wall behind him.

GONZO
Scrooge beheld a small boy. A boy
he knew, oh, very well indeed!

TWO BOYS pass through the room, each carrying a suitcase.

BOY #1
Come on, Ebenezer! The last coach
is leaving.

BOY #2
Shhh...He never goes home for
Christmas.

YOUNG SCROOGE
Who cares about stupid Christmas!

BOY #1
Oops.

THE BOYS exit.

CUT TO SCROOGE as he watches this with sadness, as his YOUNGER SELF withdraws into lonely isolation..

SCROOGE
...oh humbug.

SPIRIT
What is the matter?

SCROOGE
Nothing. There was a lad singing a Christmas Carol at my office door last night. I should like to have given him something, that's all.

CUT TO SEE GONZO AND RIZZO on the high shelf. RIZZO leans against the bust of Shakespeare.

RIZZO
The kid's going to spend all of Christmas here? No family? All alone?

GONZO
All alone.

RIZZO
(snuffling back a tear)
This is going to be a sad part. (to Shakespeare) Stop lookin' at me!

THE GHOST gazes thoughtfully upon SCROOGE for a moment.

CHRISTMAS PAST
Let us see another Christmas in this place.

SCROOGE
No! No more.

CHRISTMAS PAST
But you spent many Christmases here.

SCROOGE

They were all very much the same. I was a lonely boy. Nothing ever changed.

CHRISTMAS PAST

You changed.

39. INT. SCHOOL TIME TRANSITION SEQUENCE — DAY 39.

This is a brief sequence that shows the next seven Christmases in Scrooge's life, compressed into just a few moments.

It is a combination of montage and stop-motion effects that show the process of aging. This should have the feel of a slow, inexorable progression — and a decline.

By various video techniques we see:

Fleeting images of schoolboys coming and going. A boy hangs a wreath on a wall. It vanishes, and is replaced by another one, carried in by another boy.

Wallpaper ages and peels.

Cracks appear in the walls and a window.

One of the brackets supporting the marble busts (and GONZO and RIZZO, of course) cracks. The SHELF TILTS SLIGHTLY.

All of these images are mixed with others of THE YOUNG SCROOGE as he ages, becoming, as he does so, more resigned to his loneliness, the vulnerability of childhood masking itself slowly behind a facade of indifference.

As the sequence nears its conclusion:

40. INT. SCHOOL ROOM — DAY 40.

CUT TO GONZO AND RIZZO on the high shelf.

GONZO

The years performed their terrible dance, and in a moment Scrooge had seen his entire childhood pass. The beginning of manhood was at hand.

The diagonal brace that supports the shelf under them gives way, and THE SHELF TILTS . Aristotle, Shakespeare, Dante, Moliere all come sliding towards them, threatening to push them off the end of the shelf.

RIZZO

Push!

GONZO and RIZZO hurl their weight against the oncoming stone busts.

41. INT. SCHOOLROOM — DAY 41.

The BOY SCROOGE, now about fourteen, looks up from his reading to hear:

A TERRIBLE VOICE
(off screen)
Bring down Master Scrooge's
luggage, there!

OLD SCROOGE
It's my old headmaster!

The HEADMASTER enters. It is SAM EAGLE, wearing a black gown and mortarboard.

HEADMASTER
So, Master Scrooge, an auspicious
day for you, eh, my lad?

YOUNG SCROOGE
Yes, Headmaster.

HEADMASTER
Today you pass from the halls of
academia out into the real world.

YOUNG SCROOGE
Yes, Headmaster.

SAM puts and arm around the YOUNG SCROOGE and leads him down the aisle of the schoolroom.

HEADMASTER
IT'S A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY THAT'S KNOCKIN'
AND YOU KNOW BY NOW THE ANSWER'S UP TO YOU
BUT YOU'RE READY CAUSE YOU'VE GOT AN EDUCATION
SO BE CONFIDENT, THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN'T DO

Reaching the front of the classroom, THE HEADMASTER stands behind a LECTERN.

HEADMASTER
YOU CAN SOAR ABOVE THE MEDIOCRE
SOAR ABOVE THE REST
IF YOU DO YOUR WORK WITH VIGOR
YOU'LL BE BIGGER THAN THE BEST
YES, BE PROUD OF YOUR AMBITION
BEING LAZY IS A CURSE
WE WANT NO EMPTY POCKETS
AND WE WANT NO EMPTY PURSE

THE HEADMASTER strolls about the room, pontificating.

As the HEADMASTER continues to sing, we occasionally CUT TO see GONZO and RIZZO trying desperately to keep from being crushed by the marble busts. These are actually THREE OR FOUR SHOTS, TABLEAUS, REALLY, of the two struggling.

HEADMASTER

WORK FOR A LIVING
LIVE FOR YOUR WORK
DON'T THINK ABOUT VACATIONS
LEARN TO OVERCOME THAT QUIRK
INSIST ON BEING HEARD
A SQUEAKY WHEEL CAN'T BE IGNORED
IF YOU DO WHAT'S RIGHT
IF YOU PROVE YOU'RE BRIGHT

THE HEADMASTER comes to an easel on which sits a tree chart showing a corporate structure.

HEADMASTER

YOU'LL BE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
THINK ABOUT IT!
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

THE HEADMASTER moves to the back of the schoolroom, to stand before a bank of windows. There is a globe and a hat rack nearby.

HEADMASTER

WHEN THE WORLD SNAPS TO ATTENTION
YOU SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO SNAP
AND YOU'LL WIND UP ON A MOUNTAIN TOP
WITH A FEATHER IN YOUR CAP

HEADMASTER grabs a hat. At this point RIZZO and GONZO succeed in pushing back the stone busts so that the SHELF RIGHTS ITSELF to a horizontal position! But we see now that the shelf is only supported by a center bracket, which is acting as a fulcrum.

HEADMASTER

KEEP YOUR MIND A WORKIN'
AND YOUR FEET FIRM ON THE GROUND
AND DEDICATION MAKES YOU KING
TODAY YOU'RE BEING CROWNED

Overbalanced, THE SHELF NOW TIPS in the opposite direction, and the statuary starts to slide, followed by GONZO and RIZZO!

HEADMASTER AND SCROOGE

KEEP YOUR MIND A WORKIN'
AND YOUR FEET FIRM ON THE GROUND
AND DEDICATION MAKES YOU KING
TODAY YOU'RE BEING CROWNED
TODAY YOU'RE BEING CROWNED!

Aristotle, Shakespeare, Dante, Moliere fall with a crash at the HEADMASTER'S feet, GONZO and RIZZO mixed in among them.

HEADMASTER
(continued, not
missing a beat)
I've been meaning to fix that shelf.

YOUNG SCROOGE
Yes, Headmaster.

GONZO and RIZZO extricate themselves from the heap of marble and hobble off brokenly.

HEADMASTER
Now young man, you have been
apprenticed to a fine company in
London. Today you become a man of
Business!

YOUNG SCROOGE
I am looking forward to it,
Headmaster.

The HEADMASTER takes YOUNG SCROOGE'S hand firmly.

HEADMASTER
You will love business! It's the
American way!

GONZO darts into frame and whispers in SAM'S ear. SAM listens, momentarily stunned.

HEADMASTER
(to Young
Scrooge)
...it's the ***British*** way!

The HEADMASTER shakes YOUNG SCROOGE'S hand, and the youth responds with a formal bow of the head: a rite of passage.

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST steps into the frame, leading SCROOGE by the arm. They MOVE TO CAMERA

CHRISTMAS PAST
Come, Scrooge, there is much to see.

SCROOGE follows, though his eye remains firmly fixed on his younger self. As THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST MOVES forward, the SCREEN BURNS TO WHITE.

DISSOLVE TO:

42. EXT. FOZZIWIG'S FACTORY — NIGHT 42.

A London Street on Christmas Eve.

It is a commercial section of the city, and the Fozziwig building is an aging, warehouse-like structure with a weathered sign reading, "Fozziwig and Mom, Ltd. - Purveyors of Humorous Novelties To The Music Hall Trade".

SCROOGE and THE SPIRIT materialize onto the pavement.

GONZO
(off camera)
A moment later, Scrooge found himself standing on a city street, looking at a building he had not seen in years.

CAMERA SHIFTS to see SCROOGE AND THE SPIRIT.

CHRISTMAS PAST
Tell me, Ebenezer Scrooge, do you know this place?

SCROOGE
(delighted)
Know it? My first job was here! It's Fozziwig's old factory!

A ladder leans against a lamppost in front of the warehouse. On the top of the ladder we find GONZO and RIZZO. GONZO holds a small torch.

GONZO
Once again it was a Christmas Eve. Night was falling, and the lamp lighters were plying their trade.

GONZO turns and applies the torch — not to the street lamp, but, quite accidentally, to RIZZO'S TAIL.

RIZZO
Ouch ouch ouch! Light the lamp and not the rat, light the lamp and not the rat!

GONZO
Oops. My apologies.

RIZZO
Put me out! Putmeout! Putmeout! *Putmeout!*

GONZO picks up RIZZO, whose tail burns like a bright candle, and drops him.

There is a BARREL sitting under the lamppost.

CUT TO BARREL.

RIZZO falls into water, breaking through a layer of ICE on the top.

RIZZO'S head emerges from the icy water.

RIZZO
Th...th...th...th...Thank you?

The door to the establishment flies open, and there is FOZZIWIG, played of course, by FOZZIE BEAR, wearing a proper Victorian cravat and waistcoat. He is wearing a BEARD.

SCROOGE
And there he is! Old Fozziwig himself! What an employer he was! As hard and as ruthless as a rose petal!

FOZZIWIG
Look my lads! Dusk has fallen, the lamplighters are at work!

RIZZO
(freezing)
Actually d...d...dusk is at work and the l...lamplighter has fallen.

FOZZIWIG
It's Christmas Eve for certain!

He turns into the room behind him.

FOZZIWIG
(continued)
No more work tonight, Lads! Jacob! Bob! Ebenezer! It's Christmas Eve! Build up the fire! Push back desks. Prepare for the party!

SCROOGE
It's the Fozziwig Christmas Party!

FOZZIWIG turns to go inside.

SCROOGE and THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST follow.

GONZO comes down the ladder and stops at the barrel. He fishes RIZZO out of the water, holding him by the tail. The RAT is frozen solid. He looks like a Ratsicle. His teeth chatter like castanets.

GONZO enters the building.

43. INT. FOZZIWIG'S OFFICE — NIGHT 43.

A YOUNG SCROOGE and YOUNG ROBERT AND JACOB MARLEY (played by a young STATLER and a young WALDORF) are pushing back the desks and tables, preparing for the party.

FOZZIWIG
That's it, lads! Clear the floors for dancing.

OLD SCROOGE
Look, it's the Marley Brothers! Oh, my partners as they were as lads! Half as old and twice as poor! Lovely lads!

FOZZIWIG
Leave plenty of room for the fiddlers now!

CUT TO: GONZO holding his RIZZO THE RATSICLE out for inspection. He turns and WHAPS it smartly on the edge of a table. All of the ice falls off, And RIZZO is revealed, hanging limply from GONZO's hand.

RIZZO
I suppose I should be grateful for that..

DR. TEETH, FLOYD, JANICE, ZOOT, and ANIMAL enter and begin to set up their instruments. ANIMAL looks very uncomfortable in his Victorian clothes.

FOZZIWIG enters.

FOZZIWIG
Bring everyone in! Gather together for the dancing. And the food! Prepare the food!

RIZZO
(with interest)
Food?

CUT TO THE FAR END OF THE ROOM

Where THE SWEDISH CHEF is taking domed covers off of huge platters, revealing a lavish buffet. Under some of the dishes are VEGETABLES and perhaps a CHICKEN or two her scurry away, not wishing to be eaten.

Various company WORKERS gather in the room, some puppets, some humans. Many of the workers are fat and happy RATS.

FOZZIWIG
May I have your attention please?

YOUNG J. MARLEY
You may have anything you want.
Our attention, our admiration...

YOUNG R. MARLEY
Our disregard, our contempt...

YOUNG J. MARLEY
After all, you're the boss!

THE MARLEY BROTHERS laugh enthusiastically.

FOZZIWIG
It's Christmas Eve, and it's a tradition for us to gather our employees together and throw a party.

YOUNG R. MARLEY
Oh, throw a *party!*

YOUNG J. MARLEY
We were hoping you'd throw *cash!*

They laugh. The OLD SCROOGE joins in.

FOZZIWIG
Now you two lads stop that. Always heckling your old employer!

YOUNG J. MARLEY
But heckling is part of the Christmas tradition. Remember the old carol...

BOTH YOUNG MARLEYS
(singing)
GOD ROAST YOU, MERRY
GENTLEMEN, LET NOTHING
YOU DISMAY...

ALL LAUGH...

...except for the YOUNG SCROOGE who is off to one side, at one of the pushed-aside desks, going over some papers.

FOZZIWIG
Enough! Enough lads! I just want to say thanks for your loyalty. The trick and novelty business has been good to us. This year His Majesty King George purchased all his clown noses and rubber chickens from Fozziwig's!

J. MARLEY
We'll squirt to that!

Both JACOB AND MARLEY are wearing rubber squirt flowers in their lapels. They let FOZZIWIG have it!

FOZZIWIG
Now you two stop that!

THE SWEDISH CHEF dances through, waving TWO RUBBER CHICKENS. MA BEAR appears.

MA BEAR
Enough of this speech-making! Let's dance son!

FOZZIWIG
Here's Mrs. Fozziwig to start the party — way to go, Ma!

FOZZIWIG and his MOTHER start TO DANCE. All the party-goers join in the merriment.

OLD SCROOGE and the SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS PAST watch from a corner. SCROOGE leaps about with joy, recognizing old friends, laughing at their antics, joining in with a dance step or two.

GONZO and RIZZO watch from behind the buffet table, where RIZZO is eating happily.

Many of the dancers are seen using and enjoying the company products. There are SEVERAL RATS dancing wildly in huge rubber clown shoes, There are chickens wearing red false noses and FOZZIWIG pats JACOB MARLEY on the cheek while wearing a joy buzzer.

THE SWEDISH CHEF dances through waving his rubber chickens, singing to the tune of "Deck The Halls"

SWEDISH CHEF
YAYSKÄ VORS
MIT VOLMER SMEKA
CLUCK A CLUCK A CLUCK
CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK CLUCK

In the midst of the merriment we again see OLD SCROOGE watching as FOZZIWIG comes up to the YOUNG SCROOGE, still at his desk.

FOZZIWIG
Ebenezer! Are you still working?

SCROOGE
It's just these figures for the party, sir. Did you really mean to spend so much for this frivolous evening?

FOZZIWIG
Young Mr. Scrooge, it's Christmas Eve! Stop working, lad, you've already earned your Christmas bonus.

The OLD SCROOGE turns away. He has grown thoughtful.

CHRISTMAS PAST
What is the matter?

SCROOGE
Nothing in particular.

CHRISTMAS PAST
Something, I think.

SCROOGE
No. I should like to be able to say a word or two to Bob Cratchit just now! That's all.

THE MUSIC, which is jolly, but a long way from rock and roll, rankles ANIMAL. He leaves the band and starts drumming his way around the room, ending at the food table. Here, pulling loose his collar and cutting loose his psyche, he beats out a wild riff on some silver domes. GONZO and RIZZO stand near him, watching. The song ends as ANIMAL picks up two of the domes and crashes them together like cymbals—with Rizzo caught between them.

As the band strikes up another tune, YOUNG SCROOGE makes his way through the crowd. Right in front of the OLD SCROOGE he accidentally bumps into young woman. This is ELIZABETH.

YOUNG SCROOGE
Oh, excuse me!

YOUNG SCROOGE stops, wide-eyed, staring at the lovely ELIZABETH.

YOUNG SCROOGE
(continued)
Oh. Excuse me.

FOZZIWIG
Elizabeth, my dear, let me introduce you to Ebenezer Scrooge, the finest young financial mind in the City. Ebenezer, this is Elizabeth, a friend of my family.

ELIZABETH
(extending her hand)
I'm pleased to meet you.

She is charmed by him.

In the BACKGROUND, SCROOGE AND THE GHOST have been watching. GONZO AND RIZZO stand by the spirit's elbow. RIZZO is carrying a sandwich.

CHRISTMAS PAST
You remember this meeting?

SCROOGE
Remember? Yes...I remember.

CHRISTMAS PAST
There was, of course, another Christmas Eve with this young woman. Some years later.

SCROOGE
Please! Do not show me that Christmas!

THE GHOST touches SCROOGE at the elbow. THE INCANDESCENCE OF THE GHOST GROWS, until the entire scene is blotted out by an intense light, which warms to a SUNSET ORANGE.

DISSOLVE TO:

44. EXT. COUNTRY ROAD — SUNSET 44.

And in fact we ARE LOOKING AT A SUNSET.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to find a SLIGHTLY OLDER YOUNG SCROOGE, a man in the prime of his life. He has begun to wear the signs of care and avarice. There is a greedy, restless motion in his eyes. He is strolling with ELIZABETH.

THE GHOST, SCROOGE, GONZO AND RIZZO are watching from the side. RIZZO still has a napkin tucked under his chin and is finishing the sandwich.

ELIZABETH
Another year before our wedding, Ebenezer?

YOUNG SCROOGE
It can't be helped, Elizabeth. How could we marry now? There's not even enough for a decent home. The investments haven't grown as they should.

ELIZABETH
So you said last year.

YOUNG SCROOGE
Business continues to be poor.

ELIZABETH
You are a partner in your own firm now.

YOUNG SCROOGE
And barely clearing expenses.

ELIZABETH
You said the partnership was the goal.

YOUNG SCROOGE
Elizabeth, this is for you. I love you, Beth.

ELIZABETH
You did once.

They look at each other. It is an awkward moment. There is nothing left to say.

ELIZABETH
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I WAS SURE
THAT YOU AND I WERE TRULY ONE
THAT OUR FUTURE WAS FOREVER
AND WOULD NEVER COME UNDONE
AND WE CAME SO CLOSE TO BEING CLOSE
AND THOUGH YOU CARED FOR ME
THERE'S DISTANCE IN YOUR EYES TONIGHT
SO WE'RE NOT MEANT TO BE

THE LOVE IS GONE
THE LOVE IS GONE
THE SWEETEST DREAM THAT WE HAVE EVER KNOWN
THE LOVE IS GONE
THE LOVE IS GONE
I WISH YOU WELL
BUT I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW...ALONE

THERE COMES A MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE
LIKE A WINDOW AND YOU SEE
YOUR FUTURE THERE BEFORE YOU
AND HOW PERFECT LIFE CAN BE
BUT ADVENTURE CALLS WITH UNKNOWN VOICES
PULLING YOU AWAY
BE CAREFUL OR YOU MAY REGRET
THE CHOICE YOU MAKE SOMEDAY

THE YOUNG SCROOGE, turns and exits.

The OLD SCROOGE, transfixed by ELIZABETH, is incredulous at his own departure. She, on the other hand, is turned away and does not see.

ELIZABETH
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
THE SWEETEST DREAM THAT YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
WHEN LOVE IS GONE
AND YOU ARE LEFT WITH YOUR ADVENTURES
QUITE ALONE

ELIZABETH AND SCROOGE
IT WAS ALMOST LOVE
IT WAS ALMOST ALWAYS
IT WAS LIKE A FAIRY TALE
WE'D LIVE OUT, YOU AND I
AND YES, SOME DREAMS COME TRUE
AND YES, SOME DREAMS FALL THROUGH

ELIZABETH
AND YES, THE TIME HAS COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE

ELIZABETH turns and seeing that her lover is gone, walks away.

THE CAMERA SHIFTS to show us the OLD SCROOGE, THE SPIRIT, GONZO, AND RIZZO.

SCROOGE is devastated.

SCROOGE
Spirit! Show me no more! Why do you delight in torturing me?

CHRISTMAS PAST
I told you these were the shadows of the things that have been. That they are what they are, do not blame me!

ECU OF SCROOGE

SCROOGE
(crying out)
Leave me!

EFFECT TO:

45. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — NIGHT 45.

ECU OF SCROOGE

...who seems to be waking from a dream.

GONZO
(voice over)
Scrooge was conscious of being exhausted; and further of being in his own bedroom. He reeled to the bed...

SCROOGE does that.

46. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — NIGHT 46.

Looking from the direction of the SITTING ROOM, we see SCROOGE lying in bed, awake and distraught.

This image is seen through a ROUND VIGNETTE, as if we were viewing it through a telescope.

GONZO
(voice over)
...but found, in his agitated state, that sleep would not come.

47. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE — NIGHT 47.

GONZO is gazing through the brass telescope as he perches on the sitting room window sill. RIZZO sits on the edge of the sill, asleep, his head leaning against GONZO.

In the distance WE HEAR THE CHURCH CLOCK start to chime.

GONZO
Thus he remained until the nearby clock began to strike the hour.

RIZZO
(half waking)
What's that?

GONZO
Two o'clock.

RIZZO
Is it too early for breakfast?

GONZO
Yes.

RIZZO
Oh good! supper time!

48. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — NIGHT 48.

A CLOSE UP of SCROOGE, waking, counting the strokes of the clock. It strikes two.

GONZO
(voice over)
Scrooge knew that the second of the ghosts was due to appear. Yet now, as the clock finished striking...

SCROOGE
(worried)
Nothing...

SCROOGE'S eyes dart about the room. He grows more frightened.

With a SUDDEN WHOOSH, a red flickering light comes from the sitting room, as if a huge fire had instantly ignited in the grate.

Startled, SCROOGE rises warily from the bed, staring at the doorway.

In the doorway appears a GIANT FACE. It completely FILLS the opening.

GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Come in and know me better man!

Amazed, SCROOGE moves to the sitting room.

49. INT. SCROOGE'S SITTING-ROOM — NIGHT 49.

SCROOGE'S POV

The room has been transformed. The walls and ceilings are hung with living green: holly, mistletoe and ivy.

An ENORMOUS FIRE burns in the grate, the source of the red glow.

The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT sits on the floor, his knees drawn up. He is a JOLLY GIANT, dressed in a green, fur-trimmed robe, with a wreath on his brow made of holly, shimmering with tiny icicles.

Even when seated, his head brushes the ceiling. (Throughout the coming scenes, this GHOST will grow and shrink to fill any space he enters.)

Heaped up all around him are loaves of bread, plum-puddings, cakes, piles of oranges and apples, cornucopias of vegetables, roast turkeys, joints of meat, bowls of steaming punch, immense twelfth-cakes. The room shimmers in their delicious steam.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Come in and know me better, man!
Did I already say that?

SCROOGE
You did.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. This is the night before the dawn before the day of Christmas...did I tell you that I am the Ghost of Christmas Present?

SCROOGE
You did.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Come in and know me better, man!

SCROOGE
You are a little absent-minded, spirit.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
No, I am a ***large*** absent-minded spirit!

THE GHOST gives a huge, endearing laugh. SCROOGE joins in, delighted.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
My mind is filled with the here and now. And the now is...Christmas!

SCROOGE
(chuckling)
I don't believe I have ever met anyone like you before, sir!

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Really? Over 1800 of my brothers have come before me.

SCROOGE
1800 brothers? Imagine the grocery bill!

They laugh.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
(continued)
Have you ever noticed that everything seems wonderful at Christmas?

SCROOGE
(suddenly
serious)
In all honesty, Spirit, I have not.
Perhaps I've never understood about
Christmas..

The GHOST shrinks to SCROOGE's size and touches him on the shoulder.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
We shall go into the world. After all,
it's Christmas!

The SPIRIT and SCROOGE rise into the air, and drift toward the window.

50. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE — NIGHT 50.

GONZO and RIZZO have their hands and faces pressed to the glass, watching the scene within.

RIZZO
(terrified)
Not again!

The WINDOWS are thrown open, and GONZO and RIZZO are tossed off the window ledge onto the street below.

51. EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF SCROOGE'S HOUSE — NIGHT 51

RIZZO lands with a THUD and an "Ooof!" on the pavement. GONZO lands on top of him. Another THUD, more "Ooofs".

The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT and SCROOGE drift out the window. Once out, the GHOST "grows down" until he is two stories high with feet touching the pavement. Actually he lands on top of GONZO and RIZZO which triggers another round of "Ooofs!"

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
And here we are at Christmas
Morning!

52. EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF SCROOGE'S HOUSE - *DAY* 52.!

As the SPIRIT speaks, the street is suddenly transformed into bright, shining MORNING!

Sun streams down upon white snow drifts, and the street is suddenly filled with happy people.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
IT'S IN THE SINGING OF A STREET CORNER CHOIR
IT'S GOING HOME AND GETTING WARM BY THE FIRE
IT'S TRUE WHEREVER YOU FIND LOVE
IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS

TWO SHABBY PEOPLE warm themselves around a fire on a street corner. One of them hangs a wreath on the nearby lamppost. A WOMAN shares a loaf of bread with a YOUNG BOY.

WOMAN
A CUP OF KINDNESS THAT WE SHARE WITH ANOTHER
A SWEET REUNION WITH A FRIEND OR A BROTHER

OTHERS AROUND FIRE
IN ALL THE PLACES YOU FIND LOVE
IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS

They discover a DOG AND CAT curled up together.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
IT IS THE SEASON OF THE HEART
A TIME OF SPECIAL CARING
THE WAYS OF LOVE MADE CLEAR

DOG, CAT, AND GHOST
IT IS THE SEASON OF THE SPIRIT
THE MESSAGE IF WE HEAR IT
IS MAKE IT LAST ALL YEAR

CHRISTMAS PRESENT points to a chink in a wall. SCROOGE peers in.

CUT TO: A family of mice in the chink, standing around a sprig of holly. We can see the GIANT FACE OF SCROOGE peering in, and echo of the first time we saw the giant face of the spirit.

YOUNG MOUSE
IT'S IN THE GIVING OF A GIFT TO ANOTHER
A PAIR OF MITTENS THAT WERE MADE BY YOUR MOTHER

THE family is joined by a TINY GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

MICE FAMILY AND SPIRIT
IT'S ALL THE WAYS THAT WE SHOW LOVE
THAT FEEL LIKE CHRISTMAS

CUT TO SCROOGE, looking up from the mouse hole. His attention turns to another street scene. There we see a POLICEMAN, A PEDDLER, and the PEDDLER'S HORSE in front of a police station.

POLICEMAN, PEDDLER, HORSE
A PART OF CHILDHOOD WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER
IT IS THE SUMMER OF THE SOUL IN DECEMBER

CAMERA pushes in to a grating at street level, there to see a PRISONER and his JAILER.

PRISONER AND JAILER
YES, WHEN YOU DO YOUR BEST FOR LOVE
IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT and SCROOGE now lift into the air and start to fly. At the last instant, GONZO catches on to the hem of the SPIRIT'S gown, and RIZZO catches on to GONZO, so they are carried along.

EFFECT TO:

53.. THE SKY OVER ENGLAND — DAY 53.

The GHOST and SCROOGE fly through the air.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
IT IS THE SEASON OF THE HEART
A TIME OF SPECIAL CARING

54. EXT. MINER'S HUT — DAY 54.

A wretched mud hut on a bleak and deserted moor.

We see a poor but happy MINER'S FAMILY celebrating Christmas.

FAMILY
THE WAYS OF LOVE MADE CLEAR
IT IS THE SEASON OF THE SPIRIT

55. EXT. WINDSWEPT LIGHTHOUSE — DAY 55.

A lonely rock at the edge of the sea.

There SCROOGE and the SPIRIT stop to watch the lighthouse keeper and his wife sing and dance.

KEEPER AND WIFE
THE MESSAGE IF WE HEAR IT
IS MAKE IT LAST ALL YEAR

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
IT'S IN THE SINGING OF A STREET CORNER CHOIR
IT'S GOING HOME AND GETTING WARM BY THE FIRE
IT'S TRUE WHEREVER YOU FIND LOVE
IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS

EFFECT TO:

56. EXT. SKY OVER LONDON — DAY 56.

THE GHOST AND SCROOGE fly in and STOP, hanging in the air, looking down at the celebrating city.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
IT'S TRUE WHEREVER YOU FIND LOVE
IT FEELS LIKE CHRISTMAS

As the SONG ENDS, they sink to the ground returning to—

57. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE — DAY 57.

—to see them land.

SCROOGE is transfixed by all of this.

SCROOGE
Spirit! I had no idea! I wish to see friends! Kin! Oh, show me family!

EFFECT TO:

58. INT. FRED'S HOUSE — DAY 58.

It's a MAGIC CUT— SCROOGE and CHRISTMAS PRESENT suddenly appear in the house. There we see FRED, and his wife, CLARA. and several (puppet) friends gathered in a cozy parlor.

THE GHOST lies on his side, head propped on elbow, taking up much of one side of the room. SCROOGE stands by him, pop-eyed.

SCROOGE
It's Fred! My dear Nephew Fred and Clara, his wife. Having Christmas with friends!

GONZO and RIZZO watch from a nearby side table. On it sits a bowl of fruit.

RIZZO
Hey look, fruit!

He chomps down on a grape.

FRED
There now! We've had the plum pudding, and sung the carols! What next, my lovelies?

CLARA
A game, Fred!

FRIEND #1
We must have a game at Christmas!

SCROOGE
(to the Spirit)
Do people play games at Christmas?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
I love games!

CUT TO: GONZO and RIZZO. RIZZO is halfway through a pear.

GONZO
Say, did you know this fruit is wax?

RIZZO
(through glued-shut teeth)
Oh yeah. I wondered about the texture...

FRIEND #2
Let's play "Yes and No!"

FRIEND #3
A wonderful game.

FRED
I've got one!

CLARA
Let Fred be It—he always thinks of good things.

FRED
I *do* have a good one, Clara! Guess!

Unseen, of course, by the players, SCROOGE takes in the whole game, enjoying it with all his heart! He hops from one foot to another, tries to guess, mouths questions he'd like to ask, and generally has a splendid time!

GUEST #3
Is it vegetable?

FRED
No!

CLARA
Mineral?

FRED
No!

FRIEND #1
Animal then?

FRED
What else?

CLARA
What else indeed...

FRIEND #1
Found on a farm?

FRED
Never.

CLARA
In the city?

FRED
Usually.

A moment's thought while the players gather their questions.

FRIEND #2
Does it pull a hansom cab?

FRED
Certainly not!

FRIEND #2
Oh.

FRIEND #3
How about a dog?

FRED
No.

SCROOGE
A cat!

CLARA
A cat?

SCROOGE
I said it first!

FRED
No.

CLARA
Wait then... is it an unwanted animal?

FRED
(laughing)
Often!

FRIEND #2
A mouse?

FRED
No.

FRIEND #3
A rat?

RIZZO
You called?

FRED
(more laughter)
No!

FRIEND #1
A leach!

FRED
(helpless with mirth)
Oh dear! It's too wonderful!

CLARA
I know! I know exactly!

FRIEND #2
So do I?

FRIEND #1
So do I!

SCROOGE is beside himself with happy anticipation, waiting to hear the outcome of the game.

CLARA
It's Ebenezer Scrooge!

FRED
(hooting)
Yes!!!

The guests all collapse in helpless laughter.

CLOSE UP OF SCROOGE to see his reaction.

Behind them, THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT starts to shrink. When he is human-sized he stands and takes SCROOGE by the arm.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Come, there is much to see.

SCROOGE
No more. I wish to see no more!

FRED
But wait! Mr. Scrooge is my Uncle. It's not right to compare the poor man to a cockroach on Christmas Day. We must...

SCROOGE and CHRISTMAS PRESENT pass THROUGH the wall, vanishing...

EFFECT TO:

59. EXT. CRATCHIT'S HOUSE — DUSK 59.

...only to emerge from around a corner onto a quiet lane in a shabby-genteel section of the city.

SCROOGE
Why have we come to this odd corner of town?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
It's Christmas here, too, you know. That is Bob Cratchit's house.

60. EXT. ROOFTOP — DUSK 60.

On the roof stand GONZO and RIZZO, dressed as chimney sweeps.

Below them on the pavement we see SCROOGE and the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT coming towards the house.

GONZO
Perhaps it was the Spirit's own generous nature, and his sympathy with all poor men, that led them straight to the house of Scrooge's faithful clerk.

RIZZO sniffs at the chimney. Something smells wonderful!

RIZZO
Goose! They're cooking goose down there!

GONZO inserts a large brush into the chimney and agitates it.

RIZZO
(continued)
Hey, don't sweep the chimney *now!*
You're blocking the smell!

61. EXT. CRATCHIT'S FRONT PORCH — DUSK 61.

SCROOGE
This is Bob Cratchit's house?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
How do you know?

SCROOGE
You just told me.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Hmm. Well, I'm usually trustworthy.

THE GHOST peers through the window. SCROOGE follows suit.

SCROOGE
Who's that?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Mrs. Cratchit, of course.

62. INT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — EVENING 62.

A snug though shabby room that serves as living room, dining room, and kitchen for the Cratchit family.

EMILY CRATCHIT, wearing her best, though shabby, gown, her hair bedecked with ribbons, is played by MISS PIGGY.

She turns to her son, PETER, who stands at the fireplace. PETER IS A YOUNG FROG. He is turning a spit on which a VERY SMALL GOOSE is roasting over a merrily blazing fire.

EMILY CRATCHIT
Peter, dear, don't let the spit stop
turning! That's the whole secret of a
properly roasted goose.

EMILY turns to attend to a steaming saucepan on the wood stove. However, she catches a glimpse of herself in a small looking glass set on the hearth, and stops to adjust a strand of hair and admire herself.

PETER
It smells so good, mother!

EMILY CRATCHIT
(hungrily)
It *does*, doesn't it!

63. EXT. CRATCHIT'S ROOF — EVENING 63.

RIZZO is leaning into the chimney, inhaling.

RIZZO
Oh yes! It smells wonderfu...oops!

RIZZO overbalances and falls into the chimney.

GONZO
Oh good grief!

RIZZO
I'm stuck! Get me out of here!

GONZO sticks a chimney brush down the flue, trying to dislodge RIZZO.

GONZO
I knew you weren't suited for literature!

64. INT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — EVENING 64.

SCROOGE and GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT are seen peering in the window. THE CRATCHIT TWINS, BELINDA AND BETINA (who are identical PIGLETS) call to their mother from the front door..

BELINDA
Mother, Mother, Mother!

EMILY CRATCHIT
Don't shout, Betina.

BELINDA
I'm Belinda.

BETINA
I'm Betina.

EMILY CRATCHIT
Of course you are, Belinda. Now why are you shouting, dears?

BETINA
Father and Tiny Tim are coming down the street!

EMILY CRATCHIT and PETER rush to join the TWINS at the door.

CUT TO FIREPLACE to see RIZZO, covered in soot, fall out of the chimney and land feet first on top of the goose.

RIZZO
At least I landed on something soft.

PETER
(off camera)
There they are!

RIZZO
And *hot!!!! Ooch Ouch Ooch Ooch Ooch...*

RIZZO begins hopping up and down on the goose.

CUT TO MOTHER AND CHILDREN at the WINDOW, looking out.

BELINDA
Look, Father's dancing!

EMILY CRATCHIT
You know how he is at Christmas!

65. EXT. STREET OUTSIDE THE CRATCHIT HOUSE — EVENING 65.

BOB CRATCHIT comes down the street, doing a little jig-step. He carries TINY TIM upon his shoulder. (TIM is played by ROBIN THE FROG).

TINY TIM
Father, can I sing my song now?

BOB CRATCHIT
Now's the time, son!

"TINY TIM'S SONG" LYRICS TO COME

As TIM sings, HIS MOTHER, BROTHER, and SISTERS watch from the doorway.

SCROOGE and The GHOST watch from the pavement. SCROOGE is charmed.

Even GONZO, climbing down from his chimney sweep's ladder, stops to listen.

BOB CRATCHIT sets TINY TIM down and he hobbles to the door, using his little crutch.

66. INT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — EVENING 66.

TINY TIM and BOB CRATCHIT enter the little house, followed by GONZO. The CRATCHIT family gathers round the hearth to listen to the END OF THE SONG. SCROOGE and THE GHOST peer in the window.

BOB CRATCHIT
Merry Christmas, Emily.

They hug.

EMILY CRATCHIT
And the same to you...Cratchie! Now then...let's *eat!*

CUT TO RIZZO, who sits by the spit, blowing on his blistered feet.

RIZZO
(to Gonzo)
I never got a hotfoot from a goose before.

The CRATCHIT FAMILY is busy hugging one another.

EMILY CRACHIT
All right, childre, time for you to set the table

THE CHILDREN, except for Tiny Tim, rush off to set the table.

TINY TIM
Christmas Dinner! The goose, the goose!

TINY TIM falls into a fit of coughing. EMILY comforts him.

EMILY CRATCHIT
There, now son. You've gotten too excited. You go to table and sit for a moment and rest.

TINY TIM hobbles off, coughing. His parents watch him

EMILY CRATCHIT
(continued)
How was he in church?

BOB CRATCHIT
As good as gold, and better. He told me that he hoped the people saw him in church, because it might be pleasant for them to remember upon Christmas Day who made lame beggars walk and blind men see.

67. EXT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — EVENING 67.

SCROOGE stares through the window.

SCROOGE
A remarkable child...

PETER
(off camera)
Everything is ready, Mother

EMILY CRATCHIT
(off camera)
Well, in that case, dinner is served!

68. EXT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — EVENING 68.

GONZO
And with that, the Cratchits came to
what was surely the happiest single
moment in all the live-long year!

The CAMERA now shows us THE CRATCHIT FAMILY seated around the table for Christmas dinner. It is a deeply romanticized image with lots of back lighting and diffusion and good stuff like that, and it makes the shabby little room look like God's own dining hall—in a cozy sort of way.

69. EXT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — EVENING 69.

SCROOGE and the GHOST at the window.

SCROOGE
It's such a...a *meager* feast!

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
But very appreciated.

SCROOGE
I pay Bob such a small amount.

BOB CRATCHIT
(from within)
Mr. Scrooge!

SCROOGE is stunned to hear his own name.

SCROOGE
Bob? Bob Cratchit?

Without thinking, SCROOGE rushes to the door and ENTERS THE ROOM.

70. INT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — EVENING 70.

But BOB is talking to his family, *not* to Ebenezer, whom they cannot see. His glass is lifted.

BOB CRATCHIT
It only seems right to lift a glass to my employer! I give you Mr. Scrooge, the Founder of the Feast!

EMILY CRATCHIT
The Founder of the Feast indeed! If I had him here I'd give him a piece of my mind to feast upon. And I bet he'd choke on it!

BOB CRATCHIT
My dear, the children—Christmas Day.

EMILY CRATCHIT
Hmph. Well, I suppose that on the blessed day of Christmas one must drink to the health of Mr. Scrooge. Even though he is odious, stingy, wicked, unfeeling, badly-dressed...

TINY TIM lifts his glass.

TINY TIM
To the Founder of the Feast, Mr. Scrooge.

EMILY CRATCHIT
(reluctant)
To Mr. Scrooge. He'll be very merry and happy this day, I have no doubt.

TINY TIM
God bless Mr. Scrooge!

SCROOGE gulps.

TINY TIM
God bless us all—everyone!

From this point on the scene before SCROOGE slowly starts to fade, as if see through mist.

SCROOGE moves in very close to study TINY TIM.

SCROOGE
Spirit, tell me if Tiny Tim will live.

THE GHOST, human size, appears quietly at SCROOGE'S side.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
That is the future, and my realm is the present. However... I see a vacant seat by the chimney-corner and a crutch without an owner. If these shadows remain unaltered I believe the child will die.

SCROOGE turns away, desolate.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
(continued)
But what then? If he's going to die, he had better do it, and decrease the surplus population!

SCROOGE
Oh, Spirit!

The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT touches SCROOGE'S arm.

The room continues to FADE AND RECEDE, leaving SCROOGE and the SPIRIT, GONZO and RIZZO in ever increasing darkness.

GONZO
(to camera)
As the Cratchit family drifted back and away vanishing into the darkness, Scrooge kept his eye upon Tiny Tim until the last.

The scene has vanished before them and they stand in a BLACK VOID.

Now wind howls mournfully.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
My time grows short.

SCROOGE notices for the first time that the GHOST'S HAIR is streaked with gray, and that he moves with a stoop.

SCROOGE
Spirit, do you grow old?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
I do!

71. EXT. CHURCHYARD — NIGHT 71.

In the gathered blackness that now surrounds SCROOGE and the SPIRIT we begin to discern shapes, which become more distinct as the scene progresses.

We stand before a country church. The steeple spikes up into a storm-tossed sky, and the dark shapes of trees move uneasily and strangely.

SCROOGE
(continued)
Are spirit's lives so short?

THE CLOCK IN THE TOWER BEGINS TO CHIME THE HOUR.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
My life upon this globe is very brief.
I believe it will end upon the stroke
of twelve.

SCROOGE
Now? But Spirit, I have learned
much from you!

72. INT. SHADOWY CHURCH BELFRY — NIGHT 72.

GONZO watches as RIZZO pulls the rope, causing the bell to strike midnight.

With each stroke he is dragged off his feet up into the air.

RIZZO
That's six...

GONZO
Nothing Scrooge could do or say
could stop the relentless march of
those terrible bells.

RIZZO
...seven...

73. EXT. CHURCHYARD — NIGHT 73.

GONZO
(voice over)
...eight...

The SPIRIT is now an ANCIENT, HAGGARD figure.

SCROOGE
Oh, Spirit, do not leave me!

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
(quite content)
I think I must. In fact, I am about to
die!

SCROOGE
You have meant much to me. You have changed me!

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
And now I must leave you with the Ghost of the Future.

SCROOGE
The Future? Must we?

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
I know, it sounds worrisome. But once you get to know him, he's not a bad sort.

SCROOGE
If you say so.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT
Go forth...and know him better man...

The BELL STRIKES TWELVE in the steeple.

The GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT vanishes.

The wind howls.

SCROOGE turns about to look. For the first time he — and we — see that we are standing in a graveyard.

SCROOGE whirls and half falls, running into a large gravestone. He looks about in terror.

Dickens describes this place as "Walled in by houses; overrun by grass and weeds, the growth of vegetation's death, not life; choked up with too much burying; fat with repleted appetite."

SCROOGE turns to go to the church and finds himself SUDDENLY FACE TO FACE with a HOODED, ROBED FIGURE.

This is THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME, and we will never see anything of it but the gray robe, which totally hides the figure within, except for two pale hands that protrude from the sleeves. There is an ETHEREAL ELEGANCE about the spirit. When it moves it leaves behind wispy trails, like dissolving ectoplasm.

SCROOGE cries out!

INTERCUT GONZO and RIZZO peeking out the door of the church.

SCROOGE
(composing
himself)
Am I in the presence of the Ghost of
Christmas Yet To Come?

The SPIRIT stands silent. Then his head inclines in a single nod.

SCROOGE is so frightened he can barely stand.

SCROOGE
(continued)
Spirit! I fear you more than any
Specter I have seen.

CUT TO DOORWAY to see GONZO and RIZZO

RIZZO'S teeth are chattering.

RIZZO
This is too scary. I...I don't think I
want to see any more.

GONZO
When you're right, you're right. (to
camera) We've had enough of this,
folks. You're on your own. We'll
meet you at the finale.

And they slam the door.

CUT TO SCROOGE and the SPIRIT.

SCROOGE
Yes, I know I must, and I am
prepared to follow—and to learn—
with a thankful heart. Will you not
speak to me?

THE SPIRIT puts a hand upon SCROOGE'S shoulder, and points on into the distance.

SCROOGE
Yes, yes! The night is waning fast.
Lead on, Spirit!

As they begin to move forward, through the graveyard, the DARKNESS CLOSES IN around them like a tunnel...

EFFECT TO:

74. EXT. LONDON STREET — DAY 74.

...and then opens again, a gray, dismal day on a London street. It is raining.

Ahead of SCROOGE is a small knot of men in business suits, holding forth on a street corner under a canopy of black umbrellas. These are all played by EVIL-LOOKING MUPPET PIGS.

PIG #1
No, I don't know much about it,
either way. I only know he's dead.

PIG #2
When?

PIG #1
Last night, I believe.

PIG #3
I wonder what he died of. I thought
he'd never go!

There is some general laughter at that.

PIG #4
I'm sure I don't know or care why
he's gone. I would like to know what
he did with all his money.

PIG #2
Well, he didn't give it to me!

More laughter.

PIG #1
It's likely to be a very cheap funeral.
I don't know a single soul who
would go to it.

PIG #3
I wouldn't mind going...if lunch is
provided!

The rain has gotten worse, and the men disperse, laughing and talking.

SCROOGE
I know some of those gentlemen,
Spirit. (worried) Of what poor
wretch do they speak?

The SPIRIT merely points ahead, and SCROOGE turns to see a dismal little alley behind them. The way is foul and narrow, the houses and their inhabitants all seem to be rotting from within.

SCROOGE is much bothered by the scene he has just witnessed.

SCROOGE
Spirit, surely the death of this man of whom they speak... surely this death must cause emotion in some one's heart?

In answer to the question GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME turns and points to a shop in the alley.

75. DELETED 75.

76. INT. OLD JOE'S SHOP — DAY 76.

A dark little den of a shop on the other side of the street. It is nearly filled with heaps of rusty iron, bales of filthy rags, and, in one corner, a large pile of bleached bones. (Dickens calls for vats of offal and corrupted fat, as well.)

The rafters and beams of the establishment are covered in thick mats of spider webs.

OLD JOE, the proprietor of this establishment, sits at it's center by a tiny stove. OLD JOE is a bloated, evil-looking creature, like an engorged SPIDER. He is dressed in filthy rags.

Standing before OLD JOE are several of the scummier Muppet townspeople, AN UNDERTAKER'S MAN, A LAUNDRESS, A CHARWOMAN.

OLD JOE
Ssssooo, back from the housssse of ssadness I sssseee!

The THREE LAUGH.

LAUNDRESS
Sad that he didn't die years ago!

OLD JOE
Let me sseee. What have you got for Old Joe? What can I get from you...to remember him by?

UNDERTAKER'S MAN
I got these collar buttons from his dresser. Mother-of-pearl.

He lays down the buttons, and JOE drops a coin in his hand.

LAUNDRESS
I got his bed curtains, very fine damask.

OLD JOE
Very cheap damasssk, but worth a few coinssss.

CHARWOMAN
And I got his blankets.

OLD JOE
Why Mrssss. Dilber! They're still warm! I don't pay extra for the warmth, you know!

CHARWOMAN
You should! It's the only warmth he ever had!

They laugh.

SCROOGE, who has been watching this at the side of GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME turns away, and shudders.

SCROOGE
I understand Spirit. The case of this unhappy man might be my own. My life tends that way, now. Merciful Heavens!

The STREET grows dark and starts to recede.

SCROOGE
(continued)
Let me see some tenderness connected with this world, or I'll be haunted by that terrible conversation forever.

The SPIRIT points.

EFFECT TO:

77. EXT. BOB CRATCHIT'S HOUSE — DAY **77.**

SCROOGE and the SPIRIT appear on the front steps.

SCROOGE
Bob Cratchit's house? Oh, yes, Spirit! A place of joy and laughter. Thank you for bringing me here. (looking about) It is so quiet. Why is it so quiet, Spirit?

A strange silence does, in fact, hang about the house. THE SPIRIT motions to the window. They peer in.

78. INT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — DAY 78.

EMILY CRATCHIT and BELINDA setting the table. PETER and BETINA are reading books. The room is hung with Christmas greenery.

EMILY CRATCHIT lets out a small sob.

BELINDA
Oh, mother, you're crying again.

EMILY CRATCHIT
No, no. It's the lamplight. It hurts my eyes.

She turns away, crying.

79. EXT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — DAY 79.

SCROOGE
Not Tiny Tim!

THE SPIRIT turns SCROOGE'S attention back to the window.

80. INT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — DAY 80.

EMILY CRATCHIT
They're better now. My eyes get weak in the dim light, and I wouldn't show weak eyes to your father when he comes for all the world. He should be back by now.

PETER
I think he's walked a little slower these past two evenings.

A pause.

EMILY CRATCHIT
(a steady, cheerful voice)
I have known him to walk with—I have known him to walk with Tiny Tim upon his shoulder—very fast indeed.

PETER
And so have I.

The door opens and BOB CRATCHIT enters.

BOB CRATCHIT
Hello, my dears. Hello Peter, Belinda.

EMILY CRATCHIT goes to him.

EMILY CRATCHIT
How was the churchyard?

BOB CRATCHIT
It will be lovely, Emily. It would have done you good to see how green the place is. I picked a spot for Tim where he can see—it's a spot on the hill. You can see the ducks on the river. Tiny Tim...

CRATCHIT turns away.

EMILY CRATCHIT
He loved to watch the ducks—on the river.

BOB suddenly hugs EMILY CRATCHIT very hard.

They sit down at the table. One seat is vacant.

81. EXT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — DAY 81.

SCROOGE
Oh Spirit, must there be a Christmas that brings this awful scene? How can we endure it?

82. INT. CRATCHIT HOUSE — DAY 82.

BOB pulls himself up, tall.

BOB CRATCHIT
It's all right, children. Life is made up of meetings and partings. That is the way of it. I am sure we shall never forget poor Tiny Tim, or this first parting that there was among us.

A fragment of Tiny Tim's song echoes through the room.

THE ROOM DARKENS AND RECEDES.

SCROOGE is overcome with grief.

EFFECT TO:

83. EXT. CHURCHYARD — NIGHT 83.

The same dark, terrifying graveyard where SCROOGE first met the GHOST OF CHRISTMAS YET TO COME.

The two now stand there again. The wind has intensified, the night grown darker.

SCROOGE composes himself with some difficulty, seeing where he is.

SCROOGE
Must we return to this place?

THE SPIRIT stands silent.

SCROOGE looks at him for a long moment.

SCROOGE
(continued)
There is yet something else that I must know. Is that not true?

THE SPIRIT stands silent.

SCROOGE
(continued)
Spirit, I know what I must ask! I fear to, but I must! Who was the wretched man whose death brought so much glee and happiness to others?

THE SPIRIT points to a gravestone.

SCROOGE gazes upon the stone with growing horror.

SCROOGE
(continued)
Answer me one question. Are these the shadows of the things that Will be, or are they shadows of the things that May be only?

THE SPIRIT points to the grave.

SCROOGE
(continued)
These events can be changed! A life can be made right!

THE SPIRIT points to the grave.

Sobbing, trembling, SCROOGE moves to the stone, and traces with his finger the name on the long-neglected grave.

SCROOGE
It...It's ***Ebenezer Scrooge!***

SCROOGE falls to his knees.

SCROOGE
(continued)
No, Spirit! Oh, no, no!

SCROOGE whirls round and clutches at the SPIRIT'S ROBE.

SCROOGE
(continued)
Hear me! I am not the man I was! Why would you show me this, if I am past all hope? I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year! I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future! I will not shut out the lessons the Spirits have taught. Oh, tell me I may sponge out the writing on this stone!

SCROOGE clutches at the GRAY ROBE of the SPIRIT.

Suddenly THE ROBE FALLS, as the SPIRIT WITHIN IT VANISHES.

SCROOGE is covered over by this shroud of heavy velvet. He struggles desperately, suffocated by its weight and density!

And then, quite suddenly, the fabric TURNS WHITE! It floats about him soft as bed sheets.

Bed sheets they are!

84. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — DAY **84.**

For SCROOGE now finds himself in his very own bed, with the bright morning sun filling the room!

SCROOGE
I'm home!

The sun streams across the bed, as SCROOGE, on his knees, clutches giddily at the sheets and blankets, beside himself with relief and joy.

CAMERA PULLS BACK. We are seeing SCROOGE from GONZO and RIZZO'S POV on the window ledge outside the sitting room.

85. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE - DAY **85.**

GONZO and RIZZO perched on the sill.

GONZO
(to camera)
Yes! The bedposts were his own! The bed was his own! The room was his own!

RIZZO
(to camera)
Hi guys. We're back.

GONZO
We promised we would be! But the thing that made Scrooge happiest of all was that his life lay before him, and it could be changed!

86. INT. SCROOGE'S BED CHAMBER — DAY 86.

SCROOGE leaps out of bed—a man possessed by joy.

SCROOGE
I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future! Oh Jacob and Robert Marley! Heaven and the Christmas Time be praised for this day! I say it on my knees, Jacob and Robert; on my knees!

SCROOGE has dropped to his knees, but now, almost at once, leaps up again to do a jig around the room. He clutches at the bed curtains.

SCROOGE
(continued)
They are not torn down. They're here! And *I'm* here, more's the miracle!

SCROOGE picks up his dressing gown and dances with it out the door and into...

87. INT. SCROOGE'S SITTING ROOM — DAY 87.

. Outside we see GONZO and RIZZO watching.

SCROOGE
I don't know what to do! I'm light as a feather! I'm happy as an angel, and merry as a schoolboy! Whoop! Halloo!

88. EXT. SCROOGE'S HOUSE — DAY 88.

RIZZO, watching SCROOGE within, is growing nervous.

RIZZO
Gonzo, you think it's safe for us to be here?

GONZO
Scrooge is saved! What can happen now?

SCROOGE throws open the windows, hurling GONZO and RIZZO off the sill.

SCROOGE
You there boy!

89. EXT. PAVEMENT IN FRONT OF SCROOGE'S — DAY 89.

A HIGH ANGLE SHOT, SCROOGE'S POV

BEAN BUNNY stands in the snow looking up at the window.

Snow has fallen during the night and the street is heaped with white.

BEAN
What, me...

BEAN is momentarily distracted looking at GONZO and RIZZO spread-eagled in the snow, one on Bean's left, one on his right.

BEAN
That is...what, me, Sir?

CUT TO SCROOGE, looking down.

SCROOGE
What's today?

BEAN
Pardon?

SCROOGE
What's today, my fine fellow?

BEAN
Today? Why it's Christmas Day!

SCROOGE
It's Christmas Day! I haven't missed it. The Spirits have done it all in one night. They can do anything they like. Of course they can. Of course they can. Halloo, my fine fellow!

CUT TO BEAN

He keeps being distracted as GONZO and RIZZO painfully drag themselves out of the snow bank.

BEAN
Err...hello?

SCROOGE
Do you know the poultry shop in the next street?

BEAN
Yes, I do, sir.

SCROOGE
An intelligent lad! A remarkable lad! Do you know whether they've sold the prize turkey in the window?

BEAN
The one as big as me? It's still there!

SCROOGE
Oh, it's a pleasure to talk with you, lad. Go and buy it!

BEAN
Be serious!

SCROOGE tosses down a bag of coins.

SCROOGE
I'm being serious! Buy it at once, and I'll give you a shilling. Do it quickly and I'll give you five!

GONZO
(to audience)
The boy was off like a shot, eager to...

BEAN tramples GONZO and RIZZO in his enthusiasm to get to the poulterers.

CUT TO SCROOGE.

SCROOGE
I'll bring it to Bob Cratchit's house!
What a surprise it will be! It's twice
the size of Tiny Tim!

EFFECT TO:

90. EXT. PAVEMENT IN FRONT OF SCROOGE'S HOUSE — DAY 90.

GONZO and RIZZO drag themselves up out of the snow bank. PEOPLE and PUPPETS, holiday-makers all, are starting to populate the street, as they did when Ghost of Christmas Present led Scrooge through London.

GONZO
And a few moments later, dressed in
his finest, Scrooge appeared on the
streets of the city to wish Merry
Christmas to the world.

In the BACKGROUND THE DOOR OF THE HOUSE bursts open and SCROOGE comes down the steps dressed in his finest, which is of course, all black.

He strides down the street, giddy with delight, wishing every passerby a "Happy Christmas". He stops to pat a startled GONZO and RIZZO on the head.

Coming around the corner he comes face to face with BUNSEN and BEAKER .

SCROOGE
A very Merry Christmas to you,
Gentlemen!

BEAKER immediately hides behind BUNSEN liked a scared rabbit.

HONDYDEW
Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE
Yes, that is my name, and I fear it
may not be pleasant to you.

BEAKER
("You got that
right,
Charley!")
Meee mee *meep,* meep, Mee Mee!

SCROOGE
Allow me to ask your pardon. Tell
me gentlemen, you do recall that
matter of a charitable donation of
which we spoke?

HONEYDEW
Yes, yes of course I recall it.

SCROOGE
If you would be so kind, will you please put me down for a pledge of...

Here SCROOGE leans forward and whispers in HONEYDEW'S ear. BEAKER cups a hand to his ear and leans into HONEYDEW'S other ear, planning to hear straight through Bunsen's head, apparently.

HONEYDEW AND BEAKER
That much??? / Meeeep meep???

SCROOGE
Not a penny less. A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you.

HONEYDEW
Oh my goodness. I don't know what to say. I...I only wish we had something to give you in return!

BEAKER removes the bright red scarf from around his neck and gives it to SCROOGE. SCROOGE is incredibly moved by this.

SCROOGE
For me? A gift ***for me?*** Thank you. Thank you fifty times! And Merry Christmas!

BEAN comes round the corner, carrying a HUGE ROAST TURKEY

BEAN
Here's the turkey, Mr. Scrooge.

SCROOGE
Follow me, Lad!

SCROOGE moves off, singing, followed by BEAN, BUNSEN, and BEAKER

SCROOGE

WITH A THANKFUL HEART
WITH AN ENDLESS JOY
WITH A GROWING FAMILY
EVERY GIRL AND BOY
WILL BE NEPHEW AND NIECE TO ME
WILL BRING LOVE, HOPE AND PEACE TO ME
YES AND EVERY NIGHT WILL END
AND EVERY DAY WILL START
WITH A GRATEFUL PRAYER
AND A THANKFUL HEART!

91. EXT. SHOP — DAY 91.

AS THE SONG CONTINUES SCROOGE marches into the shop, followed by GONZO, RIZZO, BUNSEN, BEAKER and BEAN, carrying the turkey. They come out a moment later each piled high with FOOD OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

SCROOGE

WITH AN OPEN SMILE
AND WITH OPEN DOORS
I WILL BID YOU WELCOME
WHAT IS MINE IS YOURS
WITH A GLASS RAISED TO TOAST YOUR HEALTH
AND A PROMISE TO SHARE THE WEALTH
I WILL SAIL A STRAIGHTER COURSE
I WILL FILE A FRIENDLY CHART
WITH A THANKFUL HEART

92. EXT. SCROOGE'S COUNTING HOUSE — DAY 92.

AS THE MUSIC CONTINUES, SCROOGE dances up the street, takes out a key and enters. Like the Pied Piper, he acquires more and people as he goes.

93. INT. SCROOGE'S COUNTING HOUSE — DAY 93.

AS THE MUSIC CONTINUES we see SCROOGE arranging a row of overflowing coal buckets on the desk, each tied up with a Christmas ribbon, with a large card reading "Merry Christmas to My Bookkeepers!"

SCROOGE

LIFE IS LIKE A JOURNEY
WHO KNOWS WHEN IT ENDS
IF YOU NEED TO KNOW
THE MEASURE OF A MAN
YOU SIMPLY COUNT HIS FRIENDS
STOP AND LOOK AROUND YOU
THE GLORY THAT YOU SEE
IS BORN AGAIN EACH DAY
DON'T LET IT SLIP AWAY
HOW PRECIOUS LIFE CAN BE

94. INT. HOME FOR THE AGED — DAY 94.

AS THE SONG CONTINUES SCROOGE delivers a present of food to his old headmaster, an INFIRM SAM EAGLE IN A WHEEL CHAIR, and AN EVEN OLDER FOZZIWIG, who does schtick with an ear trumpet and cane.

SCROOGE

WITH A THANKFUL HEART
THAT IS WIDE AWAKE
I DO MAKE THIS PROMISE
EVERY BREATH I TAKE
WILL BE USED JUST TO SING THE PRAISE
AND TO BEG YOU TO SHARE MY DAYS
WITH A LOVING GUARANTEE
THAT EVEN IF WE PART
I WILL HOLD YOU CLOSE
IN A THANKFUL HEART
I WILL HOLD YOU CLOSE
IN A THANKFUL HEART

95. EXT. CITY STREET — DAY 95.

AS THE MUSIC CONTINUES SCROOGE strolls happily along, discovering a flower girl selling her wares. He buys her whole stock.

SCROOGE strolls down the street. As he does so he comes to various people we have seen before in the story, and to each he gives a small bunch of flowers and a Christmas greetings.

The people he meets include:

The Bookkeeper rats - out caroling for the day
The London Bobbies
The Homeless folk round their fire
The Mouse Family
The Pig Businessmen
Old Joe, The Laundress, Charwoman, Undertaker's Man

GONZO, RIZZO, and BEAN follow along, starting to stagger under the weight of all the stuff.

96. INT. FRED'S HOUSE — DAY 96.

AS THE MUSIC CONTINUES SCROOGE bursts in on the Christmas party! He hugs Fred and Clara. The guests are all amazed, but FRED most of all.

97. EXT. BOB CRATCHIT'S HOUSE — DAY 97.

AS THE MUSIC CONTINUES SCROOGE strides up to the door. He is followed by GONZO, RIZZO, BEAN, FRED, CLARA and A HUGE CAST OF CHARACTERS. SCROOGE gets everyone to hide behind the corner. Then he knocks smartly on Cratchit's door.

MUSIC DIPS UNDER as BOB CRATCHIT appears.

SCROOGE
(very angry)
Bob Cratchit! So here you are!

BOB CRATCHIT
Mr....Mr. Scrooge?

SCROOGE
You, sir, were not at work this morning as we had discussed!

BOB CRATCHIT
But...but Mr. Scrooge sir, we did discuss it! It's Christmas. You gave me the day off.

SCROOGE
I? I, Ebenezer Scrooge? Would I do a thing like that?

BOB CRATCHIT
No. I mean yes!... But you did!

SCROOGE
Bob Cratchit, I've had my fill of this!

EMILY CRATCHIT
(appearing suddenly)
And I've had my fill of you, Mr. Scrooge.

BOB CRATCHIT
Emily! Mr. Scrooge...

SCROOGE
And therefore, Bob Cratchit...

EMILY CRATCHIT
And therefore you can leave this house at once.

SCROOGE
And therefore, I am about to raise your salary!

EMILY CRATCHIT
(clenched fist)
And I'm about to raise you right off the pavement and onto the...

BOB AND EMILY
Pardon?

THE REST OF THE CRATCHIT FAMILY now starts to gather round the door.

SCROOGE
Yes Bob! Raise your salary, and pay off your mortgage on this house, and... Bob Cratchit, would you and your family care to join us in a wee bit of a turkey dinner this fine Christmas Day?

And EVERYONE LEAPS OUT yelling, "Merry Christmas" There is a general, happy hubbub as EVERYONE enters the house!

GONZO turns to camera

GONZO
And Scrooge was better than his word! He did it all, and infinitely more!

RIZZO
(afraid to ask)
And... and Tiny Tim?

GONZO
And Tiny Tim, who did ***not*** die...

RIZZO
Aw, isn't that swell?

GONZO
To Tiny Tim, Scrooge became a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man as the good old city ever had.

GONZO turns and puts an arm around RIZZO. During the following, they step off Cratchit's front step and start to move away.

GONZO
And it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us and all of us!

GONZO stops and points our attention to the window of the CRATCHIT HOUSE.

GONZO
And so, as Tiny Tim observed...

DISSOLVE TO:

98. INT. BOB CRATCHIT'S HOUSE — DAY 98.

A CLOSE SHOT of TINY TIM, SCROOGE, BOB AND EMILY CRATCHIT.

TINY TIM
God bless us!

SCROOGE
God bless us every one!

CAMERA PULLS BACK. The house is STUFFED, WALL TO WALL!

Beside the CRATCHIT family, GONZO, RIZZO, THE RAT BOOKKEEPERS, BUNSEN, BEAKER, FRED, CLARA, AND THEIR FRIENDS, have all somehow managed to wedge themselves into the little house.

THE MUSIC SWELLS.

SCROOGE
THERE COMES A MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE
LIKE A WINDOW, AND YOU SEE
YOUR FUTURE THERE BEFORE YOU
AND HOW PERFECT LIFE CAN BE
WELL I MET SOMEONE
WHO TOUCHED MY SOUL
AND MADE MY WORLD BRAND NEW
THERE'S PART OF ME
A PLACE INSIDE
THAT NOW BELONGS TO YOU

THE LOVE I FOUND
THE LOVE I FOUND
IS LIKE A DREAM THAT I HAVE NEVER KNOWN

ALL

THE LOVE WE FOUND
THE LOVE WE FOUND
WE CARE WITH US
SO WE'RE NEVER QUITE ALONE
THE LOVE WE FOUND
THE LOVE WE FOUND
THE SWEETEST DREAM
THAT WE HAVE EVER KNOWN
THE LOVE WE FOUND
THE LOVE WE FOUND
WE CARRY WITH US
SO WE'RE NEVER QUITE ALONE

99. DELETED 99.

100. DELETED 100.

101. EXT. CRATCHIT'S STREET — DAY 101.

GONZO and RIZZO turn and stroll off down the street, AWAY FROM CAMERA, arm in arm.

RIZZO

You know, the ending always makes me cry.

CAMERA PULLS BACK AND BACK AND BACK to a huge panoramic shot of the street.

RIZZO

(off camera, fading in distance)

Nice story, Mr. Dickens.

GONZO

(off camera, far, far away)

Oh, thanks. If you liked this, you should read the ***book!***

FADE OUT